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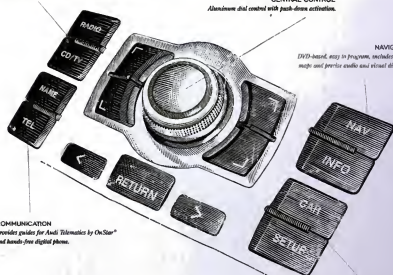


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Michael's David

Thank you for your wonderful article on Michael C. Hall ("Hall of Love and Death," June 8). As a lover of musical theater, I've had the good fortune to see him as the pansexual Emcee in *Cabaret* and the very heterosexual Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. While I would like to see more gay actors cast in gay roles, it is refreshing to see a straight actor whose portrayal of a gay man is unflinchingly honest. His

way, agreeing with his point of view on how gay sex is being used to torture and humiliate Arab men. That is, until I got to the part where he claims gay men are complicit in this situation. He claims we allow our "culture" to become desexualized by opting for roles as monogamous spouses and television decorators, which somehow lets society cast our sexuality as shameful and secret.

I take great offense that he believes my 10-year relationship con-

issue. Not everything that happens is about being gay. Not everything needs to be seen as a conspiracy to further oppress gay people. And if the Administration meant it that way, it seems Moore is one of a very few who noticed. Bush has given our community plenty to vote him out of office for; this one was a reason for all Americans to vote him out.

Brad L. Silverlight, Tampa, Fla.

Patrick Moore describes Islam's well-documented hatred and persecution of gays as an "uneasy relationship with homosexuality." Give me a break. Write your chest-thumping commentary as an out and proud gay man in the Arab world, and they'll cut your nuts off and hang them on the nearest donkey.

Enough with the pathological hatred of the president and the politically correct bullshit. Stop making excuses for a culture that searches for school buses to blow up and heads to cut off. Islam is not your friend, Patrick. And its followers certainly aren't friends of gays.

Joseph W. Baker, Orlando, Fla.

War hero

Thank you for the wonderful article about my dad, Harry Harkness, and other gay World War II vets ("Coming Out of WWII," June 8). Isn't he something? Of course I grew up with stories about his experiences as a B-17 ball turret gunner, and as a college English teacher I recite whenever I get the chance Randall Jarrell's famous poem "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner." And wouldn't you know it—during the Vietnam War, I declared myself a conscientious objector. Despite his own strong views and having fought in combat, Dad totally supported my position. That's one reason why he's a beautiful man.

Ed Harkness, Shoreline, Wash.

Virginia reich

The new law in Virginia forbidding same-sex couples from creating contracts that secure the same legal rights as those who are married reminds me of Germany's infamous ►

"Michael C. Hall's David on *Six Feet Under* is the only gay male TV character that represents us fully."

—MICHAEL BETTS, Long Beach, Calif.



character on *Six Feet Under* is a complete picture of a homosexual male, unlike the *Queer as Folk* stereotypes and the *Will & Grace* neutered hero. David is the only gay male television character that represents us fully. I applaud Hall for his great work and am looking forward to the upcoming season.

Michael Betts, Long Beach, Calif.

After reading your feature about *Six Feet Under*, I have to wonder why your magazine interviewed only one of the actors who plays a gay character. Mathew St. Patrick plays a gay African-American male on the show, a persona that is rarely seen or celebrated on TV or in the movies. His omission from your article only reinforces the sometimes unintentional but pervasive invisibility of people of color in mainstream gay culture.

Joel A. Brown, Kansas City, Mo.

Tortured analysis

Regarding Patrick Moore's commentary, "Weapons of Mass Homophobia" (June 8), I was with him all the

tributes to homophobia. It is not a "role" I put on for acceptance from the general population but instead a wonderful, loving relationship that feeds my soul, stabilizes my life, and gives me a reason for living.

Victor Martorano, Stratford, Pa.

Moore's claim that gays in America are victims of the Abu Gharib horror was an embarrassment to me as a gay reader. His assertion that "seeing [our sexuality] utilized as a form of torture...is a mortifying experience" shows complete ignorance of the fact that rape is considered a violent act, not a sexual one. His article ignores the fact that women were also raped and sexually abused in the prisons. To assert that these acts threaten society's view of gay male sexuality, rather than pointing to a systemic tragedy, is a sad show of egotism lacking in compassion for the true victims.

Colleen Jameson, Cedar Falls, Iowa

I can't believe Patrick Moore had the gall to make this a gay issue. This is not a gay issue; it is an American



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THE ADVOCATE

POLL

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In the June 8 issue, readers were asked: Will President Bush's vocal opposition to equality hinder the election of out gay candidates in 2004?

9% Undecided

51% No

40% Yes

Reader comments from www.advocate.com

- "His public opposition to equal rights does more to inspire and motivate our community into activism and protest. I'm optimistic that competent and qualified gays and lesbians will be outraged and seek candidacy to confront such hate and ignorance."
- "Bush's vocal opposition will hinder the election of fair-minded people (regardless of sexual orientation) if gays and lesbians and their allies let it happen. It is mandatory that all who support fair-minded and equality-for-all candidates show up and vote."
- "I thought Bush was a 'uniterder' (is that the correct spelling for our president?)."
- "Yes and no—those who support Bush will take his condemnation of equality to the polling place and vote against candidates perceived as gay. Those opposed to Bush will be inclined to support openly gay candidates."
- "Although Bush and some other conservatives are against gays and lesbians, I still feel the general American public is becoming more accepting."

Nuremberg laws of the 1930s [At Issue, June 8]. Similarly, they rescinded the long-established legal rights of Jews and other minorities. In 1937 one of these even disallowed the marriage of Jews to gentiles.

Now, nearly a century later, as many are celebrating the granting of marriage rights to gays in Massachusetts, the actions of a paranoid and misguided general assembly of Virginia threaten to take us back to that dark time in history.

We must get outraged and react now! Just as an organized boycott of Arizona forced the state to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we should boycott Virginia. In relegating gays to second-class citizenship, Virginia forcibly reminds us that to retain the justice and equality this country was founded on, we must all continue to fight.

Chad Ghosh, New York, N.Y.

Documenting the truth

It was with some surprise that I read David Ehrenstein's comments regarding my film *Cory Grant: A Class Apart* ["Suave. Sophisticated. Gay?" June 8]. He refers to my "brushing away" rumors of Grant's supposed sexual relationship with Randolph Scott, yet I feel quite secure that,

after half a year of looking, neither I nor my research team could find one piece of conclusive evidence or credible resource indicating beyond a doubt that Grant was bisexual. And even with that knowledge we still left the possibility open via his third wife Betsy Drake's comments. It's particularly insulting to his widow to write that she "buys the 'bachelors living together' story," as if Mr. Ehrenstein truly knows best.

Furthermore, Grant did not "attempt" marriage, as Ehrenstein puts it, he actually married five women and had a child with one. I will tell you that I heard the same old stories about Grant and Scott, and they always began with "a friend/cousin/boyfriend of mine was once at the Beverly Hilton/Palms/Wilshire Hotel and..." with no more tangible proof and an unavailable source. There are some journalistic standards I'd like to think I adhere to in making a documentary—for one, I'm not interested in broadcasting conjecture, and I wish Mr. Ehrenstein weren't so interested in printing it.

Robert Trachtenberg, via the Internet

Rosie, light and dark

Thank you, Rosie O'Donnell, for speaking the truth and shedding

light in the darkness [R Family, June 8]. We need more voices such as yours speaking the truth about the situation surrounding Martha Stewart and especially about President Bush. As Rep. Nancy Pelosi said, we have an emperor without any clothes. When will the nation face this reality?

Teresa Voorhees, Franklin, Ind.

Although I appreciate and understand where Rosie is coming from in her column, I believe she should heed this advice: Stick to comedy. Arguing "light versus dark" seemed more like a poorly written "compare and contrast" high school essay and personal agenda than a proactive effort for our community.

Laura D. Salmon, San Diego, Calif.

Corrections

In our June 8 Nation item "Not-So-Gay Days at Dollywood," Michael Romanello is incorrectly identified as being an organizer of the event; Romanello is not affiliated with Gay Day at Dollywood Inc. Also, the June 8 R Family column incorrectly stated that Rosie and Kelli O'Donnell were married at the San Francisco courthouse; they were wed at City Hall.

Please keep letters brief and to the point; we reserve the right to edit all letters as deemed necessary. Letters must include the home address and phone number of the writer and should be sent to Letters to the Editor, The Advocate, P.O. Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078; faxed to (323) 467-8806; or e-mailed to letters@advocate.com. We cannot respond to letters individually. For general information, send an e-mail to info@advocate.com with info typed in the subject line of your message.

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My dad's core values

I have a rainbow ribbon on my backpack. It's been there since last year when my friends were headed off to gay pride and I wanted to show my solidarity with both their celebration and their fight for equal rights. I've had other ribbons on my backpack in the past year, but of all of them this is the only one that's stayed on and hasn't fallen off through a year of wear and tear. I

love that it's been so resilient.

The issues of equality that face LGBT Americans are close to my heart. Since high school, I've had many good and dear gay friends. And in several cases I was the first person to whom they chose to come out. I was honored and touched because they said they wanted their first conversation to be with a friend who would not only be supportive but also celebrate the brave gift of openness in the world.

Maybe it's generational or maybe it's attitudinal, but among my friends, all I see are couples making a loving commitment to one another, some of them raising children. All I see is the fabric of a strong and healthy community. To me, that's what family values are: people who take responsibility for one another, who contribute to society in small ways and large and are invested in things that matter, whether it is their community or their home.

The issue of marriage as a wedge issue by this administration is both infuriating and insulting to me. I find it unacceptable and appalling to take the United States Constitution and twist it for political expediency. Instead of investing in education, health care, and job creation, George Bush has decided to spend his energy playing politics with the LGBT community. In my opinion, American lives are jeopardized by problems such as an unequal educational system, unaffordable and inaccessible health care, and the loss of jobs in

this country. America is not jeopardized by loving people making a lifetime commitment to one another.

The threat of constitutional amendments to dictate social policy



Vanessa and her father, John Kerry

and force states to discriminate against groups of their own citizens cannot be permitted. Our country was founded on free debate and discussion, and they have kept this country strong for more than 200 years. We cannot be a nation in which we are afraid of other people's views, or else we've lost one of the greatest values in this country. Today, families all across the country are having the same debate, and it is a sign of a healthy democracy, which we need to protect now more than ever.

My father and I also have this debate. While we do not always share

the same point of view, he always listens and respects my opinions. My father has shown unbelievable courage on these issues. He was one of only 14 senators to vote against the gay-bashing Defense of Marriage Act, and he did it in a brutal election year. He stood up to Strom Thurmond during the awful "don't ask, don't tell" debate and talked about serving with gay soldiers. He saw the ravages of HIV and AIDS in the early days and was an original cosponsor of the Ryan White act. He hasn't just been with this community in good times; he stood up when it mattered, when many of his colleagues were silent.

The core value for him is equality. And while he supports civil unions and not marriage, his approach is one of full equality, whether that's taxation, inheritance, adoption, or health care. To my father, it's always been a fundamental matter of fairness, of doing what's right, of making sure that all Americans have full access and full protection.

We need a president and an administration that understand and promote those values, that respect differences, that welcome debate and discussion. I know that's the vision my father has because that's the life he's led. Whether it was on the floor of the Senate or around our kitchen table, I've always been so proud of his fight for equality and fairness for all Americans.

In this season of pride, permit me to add my salute to the LGBT community. My rainbow ribbon is with me as I make my medical rounds in the hospital, and it will be with me when I hit the campaign trail again this summer. ■

Vanessa Kerry is a third-year medical student and a candidate for a master's degree in health policy, international relations, and economics.

Families all across the country are having the same debate over same-sex marriage rights. My father and I also have this debate.

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rants & raves

"I cannot understand why anybody gives a damn whether [gay] people get married or not. It really makes no sense to me at all.... We need more loving families in this country, not less."

—Former Texas governor Ann Richards, on *CNN's Larry King Live*, May 20



"What Pearl Harbor did to American patriotism, [same-sex marriages on] May 17 should do to the Christian level of awareness."

—Lou Sheldon, founder of the vehemently antigay Traditional Values Coalition, as quoted in *The Washington Post*, May 20

"It's something people should talk about and debate.... I'm in favor of the debate."

—First lady Laura Bush, on same-sex marriage, as quoted in *The Boston Globe*, May 20



"I'd rather keep a show like *Will & Grace* on the air than put Will in a relationship where he's going to be expressing himself physically and turn off a large part of the audience. It's not worth it."

—*Will & Grace* cocreator Max Mutchnick, on *Bravo's TV Revolution*, May 23



"The Bond fans would burn down MGM if the studios got a gay actor to play James Bond."

—Rupert Everett, as quoted in *Jeannette Walls's Gossip column on MSNBC.com*, May 20

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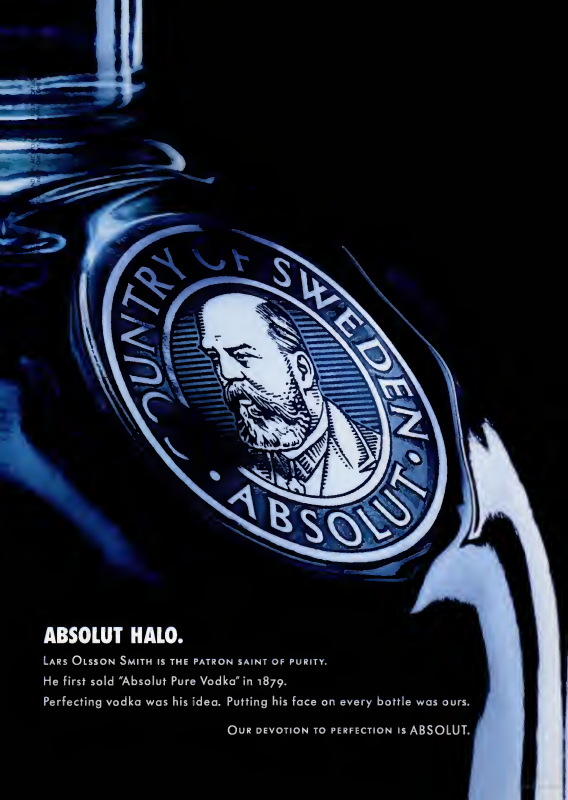


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COURTS

Gay libelous no more?

A federal judge has ruled that being thought to be gay can no longer be considered a bad thing

Libel litigation over the last century has seen parties ranging from Oscar Wilde to Tom Cruise claim they had been defamed by

being labeled gay. But that era may have ended on May 28 when Boston-based U.S. district judge Nancy Gertner threw out a suit by James Albright, a former boyfriend of pop star Madonna who contended he had been libeled because his name had erroneously appeared in a caption accompanying a picture of the singer walking with a gay man. The photo was in the biography *Madonna* by Andrew Morton, published by St. Martin's Press in 2001. "In 2004, a statement implying that an individual is a homo-



Madonna's former boyfriend sued because he said her biography implied that he is gay.

sexual is hardly capable of a defamatory meaning," Gertner ruled.

Courts in other jurisdictions may still be divided on whether such a description is defamatory, Gertner wrote in her 23-page opinion. But in light of the Massachusetts supreme judicial court's November decision in favor of same-sex marriage and the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last summer striking down sodomy laws, that claim no longer holds water with her.

The decision contributes "to the recognition that nothing is wrong with being gay, and [society] should get over it," said Laurence H. Tribe, a Harvard Law School professor.

Vickie L. Henry, cochair of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, agreed. "It is a victory for our community," she said. "The standards [applied to] our community have evolved and are evolving. Her decision makes absolute sense."

Whether Gertner's verdict could be applied outside of gay-friendly urban areas is still in question, say some legal experts. Homophobia in rural America could lead other courts to "come down differently on this issue," said Mark Mason, chair of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Same Gender Marriage Task Force. While Gertner acknowledged the persistence of homophobia, she quoted from the Massachusetts ruling to make her point: "Private biases may be outside the reach of the law, but the law cannot, directly or indirectly, give them effect."

Paul Martinek, editor in chief of *Lawyers Weekly USA*, said Gertner is known as a liberal judge and that she was "obviously trying to make new law in this case." But until an appeals court adopts her reasoning, Martinek said, "it's just one judge issuing an interesting, novel opinion, and other judges will look at it and decide for themselves whether or not they agree with it."

—Jay Blotcher



Wilde (left) and Cruise are among those who have sued for libel after being labeled gay.

Pennsylvania lawmakers sue gays | Page 16 ►

The Nation

RELIGION

A bishop's blessing

Leaders of the Episcopal Church USA gave tacit approval to the blessing of same-sex unions last August, and the Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno took that as license to do what he had wanted to do for a long time. Bruno is reported to have become the first sitting Episcopal bishop to bless a gay couple in the church, presiding over the union of well-known gay authors Mal-

colm Boyd, 80, and his 51-year-old partner of 20 years, Mark Thompson, in Los Angeles on May 16. "I have to offer the same rite of blessing

to these people when I am asked as I would do for any other human being," Bruno said.

The American Anglican Council, a conservative church faction that formed in response to the consecration of openly gay bishop V. Gene Robinson, criticized Bruno's action.



Bishop Bruno

LAW SUIT

Thwarting marriage with intimidation?

Stephen Stahl and Robert Seneca were merely thinking about contesting Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage, but even that was too much for a group of state lawmakers. Stahl, 55, and Seneca, 48, applied for and were denied a marriage license at the Bucks County Courthouse in March. But before the New Hope couple could mount a legal challenge, 12 legislators, backed by the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund, on May 13 filed a complaint in county court to have Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage



Stahl (left) with partner Seneca

Act declared constitutional.

"If they're trying to intimidate us, they picked on the wrong queers," Stahl said. "To me, this is as insane as Nazism or McCarthyism."

According to ADF, the first-of-its-kind suit is meant to serve as a test case to stop challenges to same-sex marriage bans nationwide. But the suit probably won't go far, experts say, because it doesn't relate to any other dispute before the courts.



COURTS

No to nuptials in Arizona

Don Standhardt and Tod Keltner decided the best way to overcome Arizona's ban on joint adoption by gay couples was to challenge the state's ban on same-sex marriage. But their plan backfired

when the state supreme court on May 25 upheld a lower court ruling that said lawmakers could prohibit same-sex marriage based on procreation and child-rearing principles. "I thought that the supreme

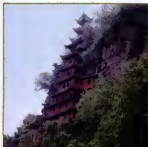
court would see the injustices of the lower court's ruling," Standhardt said. "Their logic is not real bright."

Evan Wolfson, director of the gay rights group Freedom to Marry, said the case wasn't strong enough to win. Gay couples seeking marriage rights should wait for the right time and place

Standhardt (center) and Keltner discuss their marriage challenge with state legislator Lucy Mason.

to mount a challenge "rather than racking up legal losses that we need not incur," he said.

Standhardt said he is discussing with his attorneys whether to take the case to a federal court.



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The Nation

Marriage battlefield

How you can volunteer



Who they are:

A national civil rights advocacy group

How you can help:

Go to www.pfaw.org and visit their Save Our Constitution Action Center, where you can learn how to oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment, backed by President Bush, which seeks to forever ban marriage for same-sex couples in the United States. On the site you can find talking points regarding marriage equality, sign a petition, and learn how to host a letter-writing party. "Americans have given their tears, sweat, and lives over two centuries to remove discrimination from our Constitution," the group says. "We don't want to go back, and with your help we won't."

Across the Nation

Seattle, Wash.

A judge on May 21 dismissed a lawsuit against Mayor Greg Nickels challenging an executive order he signed in March that directed the city to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

Boston, Mass.

Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney's opposition to same-sex marriage led students to boo him while he delivered a commencement speech at Suffolk University on May 23.



Colorado Springs, Colo.

In a rally broadcast to hundreds of churches and carried on radio stations across the country May 23, several prominent evangelical leaders urged Christians to support a proposed federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship Ministries described evangelicals as "the great sleeping army."

Chapel Hill, N.C.

The town council on May 10 approved amending town policy to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

The World

AUSTRALIA

Bush-whacked Down Under

Gay and lesbian voters in Australia are now faced with choosing between two major political parties whose leaders have both taken strong stands against same-sex marriage. In advance of this year's national elections, Prime Minister John

Howard, head of Australia's ruling Liberal Party, on May 27 announced his plan to amend Australia's Marriage Act to ban gay unions. The opposition Labor Party also supports a ban, which the parliament is expected to pass.

"It really makes me feel

powerless in my own country to know that whichever party or candidate I vote for, it won't make any difference to my civil rights," said Daisy Little, an openly lesbian resident of Camperdown, near Sydney.

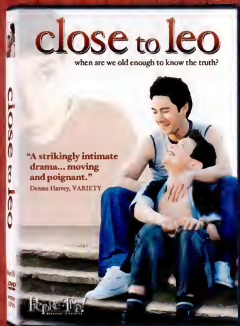
Howard is a strong supporter of President Bush. And like similar moves by Bush in the United States, Howard's proposal has been labeled by many as an effort to improve his sagging rating in the polls.



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to gay
couples

HOWARD: GETTY IMAGES

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- Randy Shulman, METRO WEEKLY D.C.



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- Marie-Pierre Fromentin, TELE 7 JOURS



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Behind the Headlines



"What I want to do is work on something that is going to benefit all of humanity," Dunlap says.

Bringing marriage to New Mexico

Republican county clerk Victoria Dunlap will be out of a job in January, but until then she'll fight for the rights of same-sex couples

Prompted by a public inquiry, Sandoval County clerk Victoria Dunlap examined New Mexico's marriage laws and decided that she was bound by their language to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. So on February 20, amid a firestorm of controversy, the Republican issued 66 licenses to gay and lesbian couples before the state attorney general intervened that same day.

Dunlap has since vowed to continue the practice and is currently fighting a temporary restraining order. Her crusade hasn't sat well with a number of people in New Mexico, including her fellow Republicans. "Other than assassination, all we can do is censure her," said Richard Gibbs, of the Sandoval County Republican Party's central committee, on April 20.

Dunlap decided to forgo reelection as clerk to run

for county commissioner, but on June 1 she was defeated in the Republican primary by a nearly 3-1 ratio. The longtime artist and 17-year resident of New Mexico spoke to The Advocate about the licenses, local Republicans, and what she plans to do when her term expires in January. —Christopher Lisotta

Why did you decide to issue marriage licenses?
I had a person call and ask if we did perform same-sex marriages. And I said as of yet we had not but I would look into it. I had one of my staff members ask an attorney, and he said that we had to issue the licenses. We could not prohibit anyone based upon sex.

Were you surprised by the reaction from people who oppose it?
I didn't realize it was going to get this big. I'm a very open-minded person, and I always have been, and to me, it was just doing the right thing.

Some Republicans in Sandoval County have said some pretty ugly things.
I have been attacked by them since the very beginning [of my term]. But once they said they were going to assassinate me, I mean, that was a little bit over-the-top. It surprises me to some degree, but you prepare for the worst. But I got a call from our ex-governor Gary Johnson. When they made the comment about assassination, he said he thought that was ridiculous and that wasn't the way the majority [of Republicans] felt.

Some of your critics have said you issued the licenses to snub your local Republican detractors.
Oh, no. Since I've been in office [the county Republicans] have wanted me to be very political. But I basically stated immediately that I would not get involved with politics while I was in the office—that it would be business, nothing personal.

What do you say to people who think you did this for political gain?
It doesn't mean anything to me. Most people that know me know where I have always stood where rights are concerned. We're trying to reinvent what it means to be a free country and have rights.

So how do you feel about the election results?
I didn't really get out and campaign as hard as I should have. I would imagine that the hard-core Republicans were the ones [who voted]—mostly the fanatics about the gay issue. I'm sure it had some impact on the election.

Having lost, do you regret issuing the marriage licenses?
Oh, no. It just freed up time to work more in this area. What I want to do is work on something that is going to benefit all of humanity, and that is the gay issue.

What's your next step?
I'm going to finish up what I have in the [clerk's] office, but I'll be putting all my focus on this gay marriage issue. We're going to file what motions we need to in the courts and prepare for our next court date.



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Money

RETAIL

Marriage support crystal-clear

Bridal gift design company Nambé wanted to get in on the action when gay and lesbian couples began marrying in Massachusetts—and decided to do it with crystal. The Santa Fe, N.M.-based company offered its Nambé Planar crystal bowl set as a free present to any same-sex couple wed in Massachusetts between May 17 and May 24. All the couples had to do was send in a copy of their marriage certificate and a short note about what getting married means to them.



ACTIVISM

Coors image still teetering

As the Colorado-based Coors Brewing Co. launched a new series of ads in gay publications in May touting its pro-gay company policies, about two dozen prominent Chicago gay bar owners took out ads in sever-

al local gay papers urging consumers to continue a nearly 30-year gay boycott against the company. "We thought it necessary to remind our community of the Coors family's antigay history," said Chicago gay club owner Art Johnston, noting that Coors family members continue to support a number of antigay causes.



MARKETING

Philly's pitch for gay tourists

A colonial American man sits at his desk writing a letter to his "Dearest Beloved." Later, outside Philadelphia's historic Independence Hall, he meets and goes off with another man in 18th-century garb. Cut to the tagline of this 30-second TV commercial: "Get your history straight and your nightlife gay."

The spot, which launched June 2, is the latest move in an ongoing multimillion-dollar campaign to attract gay tourism dollars. "We took Philadelphia's history-rich product and presented it in a way that would be relevant and humorous to a gay audience," said David Jefferys, president of the Altus Group, the company that created the first-of-its-kind ads in conjunction with the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp. "We wanted to roll out the gay welcome mat."

Religion

Battling black gay apathy in church

Black gays and lesbians across the country usually attend their local black churches, even when they're run by homophobic pastors, says Jasmyne Cannick, a board member of the National Black Justice Coalition. When they don't speak up, she argues, that empowers groups like the Not on My Watch Coalition, a newly formed organization of African-American pastors rallying against same-sex marriage.

The Texas-based group, which also opposes any comparison of the gay rights and black civil rights movements, is made up of pastors

Cannick is imploring black gays to come out in their churches.



representing thousands of congregants, many of whom must be gay or lesbian, Cannick said. "Black pastors always try to gloss over the fact that there are black gays and lesbians," she said. "Black gays need to stand up and be counted in these churches."

Transitions

DIED: Gloria Anzaldúa, 61, a leading feminist and one of the first out lesbian Chicana authors, at her home in Santa Cruz, Calif., of complications from diabetes, May 16.

AWARDED: Shannon Minter, a transgendered attorney and legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, with an honorary degree from the City University of New York School of Law, May 21.

RESIGNED: Pat Christian, as executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, a post she has held for 15 years, effective July 31.

SETTLED: A federal lawsuit filed by the mother of slain transgender entertainer **Mizah Morris** against the city of Philadelphia, which alleged that police and rescue workers contributed to her 2002 death, May 11.

The word on HIV:

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you

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Individual results may vary.

INDICATION: Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines and in 24-week trials in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines before.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Vasacor®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, Aciphex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- A change in the way your heart beats may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- If you have liver disease, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- Constant nausea, vomiting, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, tiredness, trouble breathing, and weakness in the arms and legs may be signs of a severe buildup of lactic acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which can cause death. These events have been reported in patients taking Reyataz with other anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogs.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, rash, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, increased cough, dizziness, trouble sleeping, pain, tiredness, back pain, numbness, tingling or burning of hands or feet, and joint pain.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack).

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable*
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*Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL.

†REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 6-8% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

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Generation Q

So-called gay expert

When I came out a year and a half ago at San Clemente High School, a conservative school in Southern California, I was the great teenage protagonist on the edge of a brave new world of outness. I took the opportunity to write about being closeted in a psychology paper. That led to a family discussion and having to face being out at church. I started the Day of Silence at my school and wore far too many rainbow necklaces.

But my true coming-out experience has been found in becoming "the lesbian" on campus. Whenever a gay issue comes up—the *Queer Eye* boys make over a new straight guy, or Madonna kisses Britney—people turn to me for consultation on the ways of my tribe. For the record: I don't



Emily Corral
Age: 17
Hometown: San Clemente, Calif.

know why gay boys go to the gym all the time; I have heard only two Melissa Etheridge songs in my life; I have no opinion on Tatu's sexuality; and the only reason I know the pink triangle originated in Nazi Germany is that I'm a history geek. I guess the assumption is that when we queer people come out we immediately gain some eternal gay knowledge.

The hardest part of coming out has been simply asserting and reaffirming my sexual identity alongside all those other things that make me "me." I am still the same person I was be-

fore but now with a loving and wonderful girlfriend. I

am a Republican, a devout Catholic who attends weekly Mass, and I still spend way too much time online. To me, coming out was just one more way to reaffirm myself, not a way to morph into someone else. So here's to the traditional nontraditional queer youth.

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FIRST PERSON

Out on sorority row

Think coming out is hard? Try coming out in a sorority. Advocate intern Ann Caldwell recounts the terrifying night she came out as a lesbian to her 80 sorority sisters at UCLA, exclusively at Advocate.com.



COMMENTARY

Out but invisible

Jasmyne Cannick of the National Black Justice Coalition argues that GLBT African-Americans are ignored by both sides of the minority spectrum.



ADVOCATE TRAVEL

All gays on deck!

Considering a gay ocean cruise but afraid you won't fit in? It's not just a floating circuit party, reports correspondent David Allyn, who enjoyed a recent Atlantic cruise on the Mediterranean. Read his story only at www.advocate.com/travel.

From the Advocate

August 7, 1980

Gentrification and homophobia

In the current issue of *The Advocate* we look at the widespread gentrification of old neighborhoods by gays. But it's not the first time the magazine has tackled this subject. Unlike the more positive phenomenon it is today, the gay gentrification of 24 years ago was all about the class, racial, and sexual tensions it provoked.

When artists started moving into certain San Francisco neighborhoods in the 1970s, their presence brought middle-class speculators, who bought and refurbished properties, pushing up prices. Some poor longtime residents—disproportionately people of color—were forced from



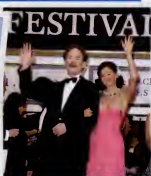
their homes. The media billed the tension as a "blacks versus gays" confrontation, and antigay hate crimes increased.

"Gays aren't the only ones moving in, but being childless, male, and white, they are visible symbols of everything that's gone wrong," journalist Thom Willenbecker wrote. —Don Ramesburg



You can find links to related Web sites for most stories in this issue at www.advocate.com. When you see the mouse icon at the end of a story, you will also find additional exclusive features at www.advocate.com.

the Buzz



Coming soon: The good and the *Bad*

WITH FARE RANGING from the transvestite-loving Pedro Almodóvar to the man-loving Cole Porter, the 2004 Cannes Film Festival was a treat for gay cineasts. Usually, the opening night movie is a dire affair, but after the disaster of 2003, organizers weren't taking any chances. The honor this year went to a genuine event, Almodóvar's noirish melodrama *Bad Education*, with Gael García Bernal looking divine in drag. Even more fun than the film was

the party that followed, with drag queens performing, Bernal dancing, and Almodóvar jumping onstage.

Druggie nihilism reared its head with Asia Argento's adaptation of *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things*, a series of autobiographical short stories by onetime male prostitute J.T. LeRoy. The film was pilloried by the critics, but no one could take issue with LeRoy's Andy Warhol-like appearance at the debut and his one-sentence speech: "Viva

la revolución!"

The hottest American indie at Cannes was Jonathan Caouette's documentary *Tarnation*. The movie shows him with his boyfriend calling his estranged father, who quickly asks if he's gay and says that if Jonathan has AIDS, he doesn't want to have anything to do with him. Still, Caouette told *Screen International*, "At one of the American festivals I had some gay bring up the fact that I was gay, which is so

At Cannes (from left): *Bad*'s Almodóvar and Bernal, *Heart*'s LeRoy, *De-Lovely*'s Kline and Judd

beside the point."

But it's at least part of the point of closing night musical *De-Lovely*, with Kevin Kline as a very gay Cole Porter, who loves his wife of convenience (played by Ashley Judd) but sleeps with one man after another. No one took issue with the songs or the after-party, which featured pop stars like Robbie Williams crooning Porter classics on the beach. Maybe love wasn't for sale, but for one night at Cannes, pleasure at least was free.



The m is for marriage

MTV's *TRUE LIFE* series went to Massachusetts to document three gay couples seeking marriage licenses for *I'm Gay and I'm Getting Married*, airing June 24. Stephen Schonberg, featured on the show with husband Aaron Schonberg (né Shainwald), tells *The Buzz*, "With *True Life*, Aaron wants to show the world that we deserve to get married because we are committed and in love. I want gay youths to feel empowered to be true to themselves, despite what others may try to force them to be."

Getting married today: Stephen (left) and Aaron Schonberg

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Elly Thomas (below, left) and Cynthia O'Reill, who have homes in both Massachusetts and New York, expect New York State to recognize their marriage. They were wed on May 27 at the Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown (left).



MARRIAGE

Provincetown's new

On the tip of Cape Cod, "P-town" has been for decades the place gays and lesbians went to escape convention. Now they're flocking there to get hitched

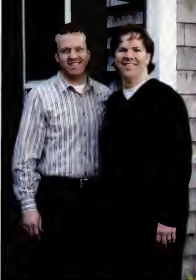
BY BRUCE C. STEELE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
MICHELE FLEURY

Dressed in simple button-down shirts, ties, and blue jeans, Richard Kaminski and Jerry Ouellet were legally wed on May 23. Hands joined, they stood before God and a Unitarian minister on a white cloth stretched across a gravel driveway outside their Provincetown, Mass., town house. Two dozen friends gathered around as witnesses, straining to hear the men's vows over the rumble of a lawn mower that an unsympathetic neighbor refused to shut off. At the end of the ceremony, as the Reverend Brenda Haywood said, "By the power invested in me by the Com-

monwealth of Massachusetts," cheers erupted from the guests.

For Provincetown, gay New England's summer playground, same-sex matrimony is yet another new frontier. The pioneering spirit has always been important to the town's rep as a gay mecca: Not only does it have beautiful beaches, as do Key West, Fla., and Fire Island, N.Y., but like those gay-friendly resorts, you can't go through P-town to get to anywhere else. It is the embodiment of what writer Michael Cunningham (a part-time resident) dubbed "a home at the end of the world," a private space where vacationing gay men and lesbians can safely



James (above, left) and Paul Montgomery-Hyde at the Fairbanks Inn; scenes from Commercial Street



pioneers

throw off the expectations of straight society. The town's enthusiastic embrace of old-fashioned marriage is a new twist.

"Who would have thought, 25 years ago, that I would be doing legal marriage on the beach for two sets of lesbians?" says Congregational/United Church of Christ pastor David L. Clarke, who lives in Provincetown with his partner of 17 years, Peter Karl (the two plan to marry "when the dust settles").

Provincetown Business Guild executive director Rob Tosner notes marriage's economic windfall. "Tourism has always been our number 1 industry," he says. "This will just be another compo-

nent." But, he adds, the money's not the most important thing. "The business aspect is just a bonus. We celebrate as a town the civil rights aspects first."

Celebrate the town did, on Monday, May 17, the first day the state issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Volunteers joined the City Hall staff to process as many marriage license applications as possible. A rally outside greeted the newly licensed couples with cheers. Some who'd received a judge's waiver of the state's mandatory three-day waiting period were married right then and there on the front lawn of City Hall to rousing public applause. ►

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Husband and husband: Richard Kaminski (left) weds Jerry Ouellet outside their Provincetown home in a ceremony officiated by the Reverend Brenda Haywood.

There are the naysayers, of course, most often gay men in their 20s and 30s "who think that it's foolish to be fighting for this right," says Kaminski, 52, a retired mental health worker. After all, why should gay people, who worked so hard to create an alternative society in P-town, now sign on to a heterosexual institution? "Philosophically, I get what they're saying," says Elly Thomas, who married her partner of 20 years, Cynthia O'Neill, in Provincetown on May 27. "But even if you spurn marriage, you do want your partner to get your 401K [if you die] without some big chunk taken out of it." Because she and O'Neill have two grown daughters, she adds, their marriage "is not just protecting each other, it's protecting a family tree."

Marriage's biggest supporters, Ouellet says, are older couples, the gays and lesbians who pioneered Provincetown's freedoms and are now its backbone: "They are the ones who suffered in the closet for many years. They're the ones saying, 'We want equal rights now, and we're not going to wait any longer.'"

Ouellet, a retail store manager and marriage equality activist who declines

to give his age, is one of those people: An Army veteran, he spent 25 years in a heterosexual marriage. "I always knew I was gay," he says, "but because I was Catholic, I got married. And then we had [our daughter] Jennifer, and I just could not leave my family. Once she got out of high school, then I just came out. I was the vice president of a bank, and I came here and started working a very minimal job in a guesthouse. But I was the happiest I had ever been."

Not long after, he met Kaminski at a Provincetown dance. Within a year, Kaminski proposed: "I surprised him with a diamond ring on Christmas Eve and asked him to marry me in front of our family and friends and his ex-wife and daughter." In 1999 the couple had a lavish commitment ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Church, complete with buffet dinner and band. "This [wedding] is more low-key," Ouellet says. "Making it legal was the most important thing."

Low-key or not, it brought all the trappings of a marriage, says the Reverend Haywood, who presided at both ceremonies. "Seeing these guys go through the anxiety attacks and the excitement

and making out lists, setting up the yard, having friends come over—it was family," she says. "It was great to have that kind of happiness in a world that is so imperfect and bruised at the moment."

Like Kaminski and Ouellet, Boston couple James and Paul Montgomery-Hyde also had a commitment ceremony in Provincetown five years ago, marking their sixth year together and legally combining their last names. Their 125 guests more than filled the Fairbanks Inn, where they returned on May 23 to have another ceremony. This time, only four last-minute guests were present—James's parents and Paul's lesbian sister and her fiancée—but the resulting union is recognized by their home state.

Like many American gays, the Montgomery-Hydes long thought Vermont-style civil unions were what same-sex couples should be fighting for. "It wasn't until about two years ago that someone started talking about how civil unions really do create second-class citizenship," says Paul, a real estate consultant who also works for Boston-based gay newspaper *Bay Windows*. "It really went"—he snaps his fingers—"in my head."

"It's amazing some of the benefits we have access to now," says James, who works in human resources for the state of Massachusetts. "Paul can get health insurance through me. It's going to save us thousands of dollars a year, and that's just one thing."

Although they're planning a big reception for friends and family for October 2, the Montgomery-Hydes decided to get married immediately after licenses began being issued, fearing some legal maneuver might halt the weddings. After getting their license in Boston and being told they could marry three days later "in Room 619," Paul recalls, "we both came home from work that night and said, 'We should go back to Provincetown.'"

Gov. Mitt Romney's fevered opposition to marriage equality in his state also factored into Kaminski and Ouellet's plans. They scheduled a grand reception for June 5 but "bumped the wedding up to the first week of our equality," Ouellet says, "because I don't trust the president or the governor."

The governor has so far achieved one major victory against same-sex marriage: blanket enforcement of a 1913 state law forbidding licenses to couples who cannot get legally married in their home state—a law passed to prevent interracial marriages between individuals from states with miscegenation laws. Several towns at first vowed to defy that previously forgotten statute, but all eventually buckled under the governor's threat of legal consequences. Provincetown was the last to give in, on May 26.

That allowed just enough time for Florida residents Brian Crawford and Horst Glamsch to fly into Massachusetts, apply for a waiver of the state's waiting period from a judge in Barnstable, get a license at the Provincetown City Hall, and have a catered ceremony on May 23 at the Martin House, a restaurant owned by a friend. The couple had met at a Provincetown café and had their first



Glamsch (below, left) and Crawford with their marriage certificate at Provincetown City Hall and during their first summer together in 1981 (inset)

Florida residents Horst Glamsch and Brian Crawford married on May 23—23 years to the day after they met at a Provincetown café.

date exactly 23 years earlier—to the day. "The fact that we met here and also the fact that there are so many truly enlightened people here, gay and straight, made it the obvious choice for us to commit for life and maybe change history," says Crawford. "It's a magical place."

The magic peaked that afternoon, as an impromptu wedding procession, complete with a limo dragging tin cars, paraded down narrow Commercial Street, the town's main drag. "It was awesome!" says Glamsch, who watched from the front of the Somerset House Inn, where he and Crawford were staying with two friends from Maine who'd flown in for their wedding. "We ran out to wave and clap for the newlyweds."

Four days later, Thomas and O'Neill staged their own six-car procession—including their entire extended family—after their wedding ceremony. "When we drove by this one outdoor café, the

entire café stood up and cheered," Thomas recalls. Looking back at the car driven by their older daughter, Heather, "we could see her crying as we drove through the town. It was just amazing."

That's exactly why Thomas and O'Neill—who have homes in Becket, Mass., and New York City—chose Provincetown for their wedding. They wanted "people around us who would be joyous," Thomas says. But will the same-sex marriage parade come to other Main Streets USA? Massachusetts resident Judith Todd-McNichol believes it will. "I think, slowly, it's going to move west, like the Pilgrims," says the professional gardener and part-time justice of the peace, who married 10 same-sex couples in the first week after May 17. "The first place the Pilgrims landed was Provincetown. This is a new adventure." ■

Additional reporting: Ryan MacDonald

The AIDS epidemic has been one of the two great holocausts of modern history, notes **LARRY KRAMER**, and Ronald Reagan chose to say nothing about it until the seventh year of his presidency. In all the early coverage of his death, why was this forgotten? Kramer, for one, is counting the bodies to mark the passing of the man he calls

Adolf Reagan

Our murderer is dead. The man who murdered more gay people than anyone else in the entire history of the world is dead. More people than Hitler even. In all the tributes to his passing, as I write this two days after his death, not one that I have seen has mentioned this. The hateful *New York Times* ("all the news that's fit to print") of course said nothing about this. We still are not fit to write about with total honesty in their pages. Not really. Just as we were not fit for Ronald Reagan to talk about us. What kind of president is that?

I have been writing a long work of history that I call *The American People*. I chose this title because in every speech he ever made, Reagan went on and on about "the American People." We, of course, were never a part of his American People. And we knew it.

Year after year of his hateful and endless reign we knew we were not a part of the American People he was President of. He would never talk about us, of course, or do anything for us except murder us. There were no social services for us. There was no research into our health. Even as we were dying like flies.

How could he not have seen us dying? The answer is, He did see us dying, and he chose to do nothing. There was no representation of us in his government. There was never anything for us but his ignoble dismissal of us.

All of Washington, indeed the world, knew that Reagan hated us. How could they not? Most of them did too. And when Daddy doesn't love you, who is there to stand up to Daddy? This is a trick that Hitler used and

which I believe the young Reagan learned from him. He never had to say much out loud himself about his hatreds; but everyone knew what they were. Gays were as hated under Reagan as Jews were under Hitler. It is a trick that both George Bushes have carbon-copied. We have not been included among their American People either.

I could never understand why Reagan's hatred of us was so intense and manifest and never-ending. Some of Nancy Reagan's best friends were gay, the self-loathing Jerry Zipkin, at one time her principal "walker," chief among them. It is said he taught her how to dress. In my play *Just Say No*, I dramatized my own theory of why she and her husband kept gays off their agenda as if we were the plague, which, of course, as in some hideous self-fulfilling prophecy, we became. Ron Reagan Jr. That is why. It was no secret in an ever-widening circle that Ron Reagan Jr. was suspected of being gay. In his freshman year at Yale (I believe this was his only year there; perhaps there were two), I have been told, he had numerous gay experiences. I

am well-known at Yale. Indeed, I have established the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Studies at Yale to document the evil acts that American "history" has performed on us.

And just as damning as the son's reputation, of course, because it could not be hidden, was that Ron Reagan Jr. was a ballet dancer. This did not look good and was obviously exceedingly embarrassing to a father who rode so many horses. So off with the tutu and on with a wedding ring. Junior was married off and



sent to far-off places in positions of low visibility.

I have gay friends in Hollywood, equally closeted, who knew him and know him and protect him. To know him is to be sworn to some sort of pact of secrecy. What a hideous life Ron Jr. must have led all these years. To be denied a life and to have been so utterly gutless about fighting back. (Well, we know all about that.) While his own mother was gallivanting around with some of the biggest fairies in the world. What hateful parents to have had in the prime of your life, "the great communicator" of a father out there communicating how

No one really writes about this. Roosevelt is one of history's great gods. Just as no one really writes about Reagan and "the gay question." These two major murderers so far have gotten away with helping to cause the two major holocausts of modern history. Just as Jews are asked to never forget their Holocaust, I implore all gay people never to forget our holocaust and who caused it and why.

Ronald Reagan did not even say the word "AIDS" out loud until the seventh year of his reign. Because of this, some 70 million people so far have become infected with HIV/AIDS. I wonder what it feels like to be the

**People magazine called me
for a quote on Reagan's
death. "I wish he had died
before he was elected,"
is what I told them.
I wonder what they will run.**

much he hated you, and his wife out there going along with this.

I suspect by now Ron Reagan Jr. actually believes he is straight. By now he may very well be. He may well have been all along. He just looked so suspicious, and of course it was this perceived suspicion that, one way or the other, is what caused his father to murder so many of us. Why does history not recognize this monstrous and never-ending history of hatred and the inestimable number of deaths it continues to cause?

People magazine called me for a quote on Reagan's death. "I wish he had died before he was elected," is what I told them. I wonder what they will run.

It is remarkable that two of the so-called greatest presidents have also allowed the greatest perpetrations and perpetuations of mass murder. Franklin D. Roosevelt was shamefully inept in dealing with "the Jewish question" (see my play *The Normal Heart*), most ironic since so many Jews were his most loyal supporters, the Jerry Zipskins of their day.

son and the wife of a man responsible for over 70 million people becoming infected with a virus that has killed half of us so far. I wonder what it felt like while he was alive to ponder this. For surely he must have thought about it. How could he not? He has been called the consummate actor who came to believe all his lines. Does this not make his legacy even more grotesque? It should.

Hitler knew what he was doing. How could Ronald Reagan not have known what he was doing?

But of course no one is writing about this. Reagan too is one of history's gods.

So far Ronald Reagan has gotten away with murder. ■

Kramer's play The Normal Heart, about the early years of the AIDS crisis, is now playing in a revival off-Broadway.



Read *The Advocate's* news coverage of Reagan's passing, and a story on his connection to the founding of Log Cabin Republicans, at www.advocate.com.

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SOCIETY

There goes the gayborhood

The urban renewal of Asbury Park, N.J., renews the debate: Can gay men and lesbians single-handedly transform bad neighborhoods? **BY FRED KUHR**

When New York City couple Joe D'Andrea and Will Elliott arrived for a weekend vacation in Asbury Park, N.J., four years ago, the resort town had long since faded. Made famous by the blue-collar anthems of local legend Bruce Springsteen, it consisted of boarded-up buildings where grand stores and hotels had once stood. The boardwalk seemed to sag toward the ocean.

The only real life seemed to be in the downtown coffeehouses and gift shops owned by gay and lesbian entrepreneurs. "I guess if those gay and lesbian [business owners] had wanted to be like everyone else, they'd have opened up businesses in the mall," D'Andrea says. "But their customers don't want to go to a mall; they want to go to some place that's unique and different and molded into their own."

In 2004 it is evident that those pioneering shops have helped spark the comeback of Asbury Park, population 16,930. Rainbow flags fly from freshly painted Victorian houses, and gay pride weekend attracts thousands of people. A \$1.2 billion project to restore the waterfront is under way. This spring, as local same-sex couples gained media attention by trying to obtain marriage licenses, Asbury Park was hailed as the new Provincetown or Fire Island.

D'Andrea and Elliott were sold on the place by the end of their vacation in 2000. They bought a fully refurbished 1,800-square-foot, five-bedroom house for \$119,000—a fraction of the price of one-bedroom co-ops in Manhattan.

Asbury Park's rebirth is the latest example in a decades-old trend of gay men and lesbians moving into depressed neighborhoods and rehabbing old

homes and businesses. Over the years gays and lesbians have refurbished long-neglected areas such as San Francisco's Castro and Haight neighborhoods, Philadelphia's South Street, New York City's Chelsea, Chicago's Lakeview, Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle, and the city of Key West, Fla. Unlike in the past, government officials in some cities, including Detroit and Baltimore, are actively recruiting gays and lesbians to urban neighborhoods.

But critics charge that this type of urban renewal benefits only the wealthy, pushes out the working class, makes affordable housing scarce, and increases property taxes. In some cases middle-class gay men and lesbians have been priced out of the market by other, wealthier gay men and lesbians.

The 2003 documentary *Flag Wars* profiled the clash between longtime

African-American residents of Columbus, Ohio's Old Towne East neighborhood and the new gay and lesbian residents, who are largely white-collar professionals. Gay and lesbian couples were furious that they were portrayed as receiving special incentives from city officials. A community development consultant told the *Columbus Dispatch* that newcomers used "demands for code enforcement to frighten elderly residents into thinking they couldn't afford their homes. Some of the seniors were fearful and rightfully so, because they were on fixed incomes and didn't have access to the right information," he said.

D'Andrea says developers—including gay men and lesbians—who are trying to revive Asbury Park have had to fight the perception that they are running longtime residents out of town. He says many of the homes that have undergone renovation were vacant, as was most of the downtown space now being used for retail shops and new apartments. There are high-end \$2,000-per-month apartments, but there are also apartments being leased to 20-something workers for between \$600 and \$800 per month.

Same-sex couples, who typically don't have children, are more willing than straight couples to live in racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods with older housing stock and higher crime rates, says Gary Gates, a research associate with the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute. "The mere fact that gay people are out means that they are more willing to take some level of risk in life. From a social science perspective, if you are out, you are willing to take risks," he says.

Blighted neighborhoods that are largely straight can learn valuable lessons from gay men and lesbians who have revitalized other areas, says openly gay urban planner Elwood Hopkins. He is managing director of Emerging Markets Inc., a consulting firm in Los Angeles that helps banks, insurance companies, and other businesses invest in low-income areas.



Gary Gates



Michelle Charland (left) and partner Diane Stephens spent \$180,000 to renovate this Cincinnati house.

Hopkins argues that most urban planners try to revive neighborhoods in a backward manner by building affordable housing and then hoping people move into the area. Instead, he says, restaurants, shops, art studios, and other services should be there first. Then the residents will come. Gay men and lesbians realized that years ago, he says, when in the 1920s and 1930s they gravitated toward certain neighborhoods in cities across the United States. Their presence led gay bars and other businesses to open, and then more residents arrived. "As gay communities became legitimized, their neighborhoods became legitimized," he says.



Elwood Hopkins

Michelle Charland and her partner, Diane Stephens, moved into Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood in the mid 1980s because they were attracted to the area's historic architecture, inexpensive real estate, and diversity. The couple bought a 3,100-square-foot unattached row house on a full city lot for less than \$70,000, then poured close to \$100,000 into their fixer-upper—a bargain even by Cincinnati standards. "We saw the benefit of contributing to the historic character of the city, but we also saw

the benefit of making a difference to the city," says Charland, a sales manager in her early 40s.

But Charland and Stephens recently made the difficult decision to move into a suburban "McMansion" after two shooting incidents took place around the corner from their house. They also want to adopt and therefore want to live in an area with a better school system. "We poured blood, sweat, and tears into that neighborhood and we would have loved to have stayed, but it just didn't feel safe anymore," Charland says. "The violence hit too close to home."

Others are staying put in Northside even after a spate of antigay graffiti sullied the neighborhood earlier this year. One such resident named Kevin, who asked that his last name not be used, moved to Northside four years ago and is renovating a 1905 Victorian. He flies the rainbow flag and hosts an annual gay pride party for the neighborhood. But he has lately been subject to ongoing antigay harassment by local teens. He's even had rocks thrown through his windows and garage door. Still, the 44-year-old social worker is not planning on leaving anytime soon. "I've invested too much time and money on my house," he says. "I will not be run out of my own neighborhood."

Thirty years ago Boston's South End, home to one of the largest collections of Victorian brownstones in the United States, seemed to be beyond repair. ►



Bob Cahill on the porch of his revamped home

It was so undesirable that residents of the tony Back Bay area built a fence along the dividing line between the two neighborhoods. While property values were relatively low for the South End's historic buildings, gay men and lesbians moved in, spent money on rehab efforts, and today, the area is one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the city. But in the past decade the South End's property values have skyrocketed to the point that middle-class gay men and lesbians have been completely priced out.

Boston resident Bob Cahill moved to

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the South End after coming out in 1992. But even then rents were largely unaffordable, so he subsequently moved to the city's Dorchester neighborhood, where he had family ties. "Dorchester is very diverse and welcoming," says Cahill, 39. He cites the area's large African-American, Latino, and Caribbean populations. "Dorchester is not a place that is all gay, but it is completely diverse," he says. "It's a welcoming and open community." ■

Kuhr is the editor of Boston-based *In* Newsweekly, a gay and lesbian newspaper serving New England.

book review

Preservation-minded

A new book by the best-selling author of *Farm Boys* makes an interesting connection between gay men and historic preservation **By John Caldwell**

A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture
■ Will Fellows ■ University of Wisconsin Press ■ \$30

When Will Fellows was a young boy he wasn't much interested in typical "boy" activities. Instead, he collected old photographs and spent long hours gleaning family history from his grandmother, and as a teenager he opened his own antiques shop on the family farm in Wisconsin. Like so many gay men, he says, he has always had an interest in preserving old things, a trait that straight men don't seem to share.

Early on in Fellows's book *A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture*, he compares his life to that of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a German transvestite whose antiquarian efforts during the Nazi era are the subject of the book *I Am My Own Woman* and a subsequent Broadway play. "You can't appreciate what is distinctive in gay

men's lives without appreciating their gender-atypical nature," says Fellows, who had a best seller in 1996 with *Farm Boys*, about gay men in rural America. "That is why gay men and straight women are often the collaborators in preservation and have been for so long."

While admittedly unscientific, Fellows's book argues that there are very real differences between gay and straight individuals that might lead guys into historic preservation. And he uses a compelling collection of stories and first-person accounts from gay men across the country who have chronicled histories, preserved antiques, and renovated old structures, in some cases bringing whole neighborhoods back from the brink of destruction. "I think most gay men have a strong streak of the romantic in them and can live it out vicariously by being associated with these fine old homes," Richard Jost, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, says in the book.

But homophobia has kept their contri-

butions obscured, Fellows writes in the book: "Many historic sites and house museums carry on the tradition of concealing and denying the gayness of the men who have had so much to do with the preservation of those places." And the gay preservationists themselves have worked to stay under the radar, Fellows tells *The Advocate*. "Some of the people I approached about participating in the book said they would love to but felt uncomfortable," he says.

Still, there was far from a shortage of willing participants; in fact, the constant stream of individual stories can seem a bit overwhelming. Yet they provide a colorful picture of a landscape that has not really been painted until now. "I was just amazed by the magnitude of it, both in terms of how long it's been going on and in so many places," Fellows says. "My task went from trying to make a book out of it to trying to organize it all." ■





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From outlaws to in-laws



"San Francisco is a place that takes its sex very seriously, and that is how it is taking them."

My late writing partner Jerry Blatt, with whom

I collaborated on many projects with and for Bette Midler for about 15 years, wrote that back in the '80s when AIDS cut its first deadly swath through the city,

the period chronicled in *And the Band Played On*, for those of you too young to remember. It was a joke, sort of, but clearly of the blackest kind, which was one of Jerry's specialties. An openly serious sexualist, he succumbed to the disease a few years later.

Jerry was one of the guys who told me he was going celibate because it was better than nothing. And I knew what he meant. The kind of sex he lived for was available to him only at the highest possible risk. He gambled and he lost and he knew it.

It's more than a decade later, and lesbians are not just the flavor of the season but a community making a genuine imprint on everyday America. Our nasty, hedonistic image has been tamed—or at least morphed—into something fabulous and accessible to straight people. At its nether end, there are about as many news stories featuring sober, happy people going for marriage licenses as there used to be news stories about extreme bikers and drag queens.

A lot of the storybook couples got their licenses in San Francisco when the getting was good and that devastatingly handsome Abercrombie-AARP print-model mayor took his stand in favor of us. Yes, the same

San Francisco that features the Up Your Alley Fair, an annual event where the bondage peeps take to the streets, walking nude men on pearl-studded leashes and setting up booths to sell nipple rings and dildos with family crests.



San Francisco is still a city that takes its sex seriously. When you go to a bar called Daddy's, it's called that not because the owner is known as Daddy or because it sounds like a friendly name for a place, like Cheers. It's because that's what you will find there—daddies, dozens of them, maybe even some real ones.

Because the city is relatively small and is home to a disproportionate number of gay people who have

come there from smaller places, the residents refer to it as the City. In New York or Chicago or Los Angeles, they ask you how long you'll be in town. Not in San Francisco. It's always "How long will you be in the City?" Most people have come to S.F. to create a life for themselves free of the strictures of wherever they lived before. That may be why the place has such a high sexual temperature. It may also be why one of the town's chief AIDS fund-raisers is an elegantly turned-out woman by night and a male department store manager by day, leading two separate but equal lives. This sort of thing doesn't surprise anyone by the Bay—they'd be disappointed if there weren't a phone book full of such people.

Now that some of us have gotten all cozy and domestic, writers like John Rechy mourn the loss of the outlaw edge that was their particular slice of gay life. In a greater sense, they are referring to the general idea of gay people being bonded by their illegality, their outsider status, and how that is slowly evaporating with our descent into the melting pot.

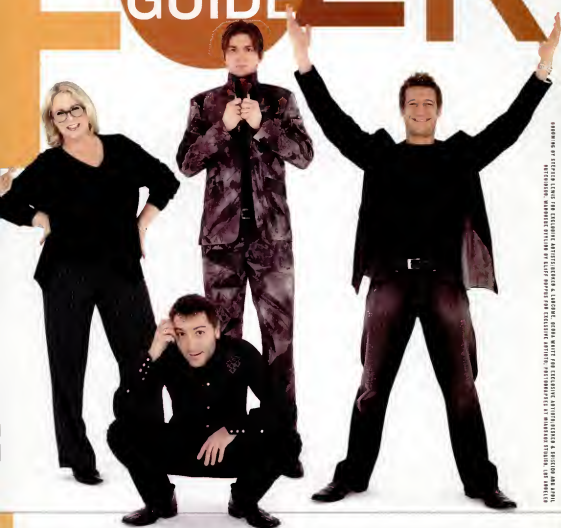
It will be a great experiment to see what happens to us. San Francisco shows there is plenty of room for everybody, even if the outlaw fringe now seems like more of a theme park than a dedicated way of life. The authenticity may be missing, but that's what comes with change. If you want authenticity, just tune in to your neighborhood evangelical and you'll get a bracing dose of the real thing. They have a bigger stake in our being real outlaws than we do. ■

San Francisco is still a city that takes its sex seriously...even if the outlaw fringe now seems like more of a theme park than a dedicated way of life.



QUEER AS FOLK has pushed, shredded, and defined the envelope when it comes to television portrayals of gay and lesbian lives, stories, and sexuality on the small screen. As the series continues to shatter boundaries and take risks, *The Advocate* looks back at Showtime's

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WRITTEN BY **Wenzel Jones** PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Ian White** FOR THE ADVOCATE



“ So you and Lindsay each had an infant tonight. ”

Melanie (left) to Brian, episode 101

SEASON ONE

episode

101 Brian, in the middle of violating the virginal 17-year-old Justin, is summoned to the hospital as his son is being born to his old friend Lindsay and her lesbian lover, Melanie. Brian and Michael perch on the ledge of the hospital roof, discussing life—behavior not generally recommended for people who have been ingesting chemicals at popular gay dance club Babylon until 2 A.M. We also meet Justin's school chum, Daphne.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I guy in the back room
I breaking-in of Justin
I with Justin in the shower

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Melanie to Brian: "So you and Lindsay each had an infant tonight."

102 Michael remains closeted at work and, having learned how to speak one phrase of straight fluently, passes himself off as such when he's pressured into meeting his Big Q coworkers for a drink. Lindsay and Melanie

want Brian to take out a life insurance policy in case one day he gets sick.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

To Justin: "The thing you've got to know about Brian is, he's not your boyfriend. Brian doesn't do boyfriends."

ALL THE NOOBS:

Many fine young bottoms are seen in the high school locker room scene. For the ladies, Lindsay is seen nursing as Melanie goes in for a taste.

103 Gus's bris is a merry affair until Brian finds out what it is and puts a stop to it. Emmett fails to notice that his new Japanese boyfriend is a hustler. Ted picks up the very cute Blake at Babylon but ends the evening in a drug-induced coma.

ONE SEE:

"Em, honey, you should try to eat some of your protein off a plate."

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Daphne: "That's Brian? God, he's so old! And skinny! You can do way better than that."

104 Brian is left responsible in Ted's living will for pulling the plug on Ted if need be. Luckily, Brian's having sex with an orderly in the next bed returns Ted to the land of the living. Justin eases the pain of detention by giving high school thug Chris a hand job in the equipment room. Justin comes out to his mother, Jennifer. Michael and Emmett do a porn purge of Ted's apartment.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

2 Justin couplings, one of them in Michael's old bedroom while he's downstairs
1 doctor

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"When I go, promise you won't let them sew my mouth shut, because when I get to heaven and I meet Natalie Wood, I want to be able to say, 'Natalie! It's Emmett! What happened that night?'"

105 Lindsay invites Brian over to dinner so he and Melanie can make nice. Michael meets a very cute chiropractor, Dr. David, after he injures his neck at work. When they go out on a first date, though, he doesn't attempt to have sex with Michael, leading to confusion. Brian includes himself in the bonus package in order to land a closeted out-of-town client.

ONE SEE:

"It's amazing how you always manage to work anal intercourse into the conversation."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Lindsay to Brian: "Don't apologize; it doesn't become you."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL, PART 2:

Melanie: "He's a selfish shithead."

106 Lindsay persuades Justin to enter his artwork in the show at the gay and lesbian center. Brian continues to try to eighty-six Michael's practically perfect boyfriend but finds the good doctor can give as good as he gets. Debbie ties one on with Jennifer, all in the name of life coaching. Ted tries to find a man with depth and character, only to realize he's really not serious about things like depth and character.

ONE SEE:

"I've known Brian since he was 14. He hasn't changed much. In fact, I'd say he and Justin are pretty evenly matched."

ALL THE NOOBS:

Ted's attempt at an affair of depth leads to perhaps the only sex scene on this show to feature both body hair and fat.

POOR TED:

"I was rejected by everybody. It's good to be back!"

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107 Michael denies it, but Dr. David displays the three signs of a true boyfriend: flowers, dinner with Mom, and a trip out of town. Brian gets broody over Michael's diverted attention. Justin gets into a fistfight with Chris at school. Justin's father finds out about his son and Brian, so he rear-ends Brian's car repeatedly. Michael and Dr. David rush back from their idyll. The doctor gets dressed up like a bad boy and tosses down the gauntlet to Brian while dancing at Babylon.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

To Michael: "You can't stay. I've got someone coming over in approximately 7½ inches."

BLAME CANADA:

David's ex-wife and son live in the mysterious location "down in Oregon."

108 Michael clings to his impersonation of a straight man so he can get a promotion at Big Q. Debbie suffers from exhaustion so overwhelming she doesn't even wear her wig. Justin's father beats up Brian outside Babylon and makes home life impossible for Justin, who moves from Brian's couch to the girls'. Brian tries to take Justin back to his folks but reconsiders the wisdom of it once he hears that the house rules include no more gay bars. Brian and Justin take their relationship to the next step: dinner.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I toothsome youth from Atlanta, who consults with Justin on jambalaya

BRIAN, MS. WONDERFUL:

Jennifer, to Brian, about Justin: "You seduced him. You fucked him. He's yours. Kindly see that he takes his allergy medicine and does his homework. And gets to school on time."

109 Emmett discovers what it must be like to be his online persona. Michael tries to learn how to behave around grown-ups but still has a miserable time at a dinner party with Dr. David's friends. Gus needs to go to the hospital, but Melanie isn't allowed in. The girls ask Brian to sign over his parental rights to avoid a repeat of such an incident, but he ultimately refuses. Dr. David asks Michael to move in.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Michael: "What is this, adopt-a-trick?"

Brian: "It's only temporary."

Michael: "Until he grows up?"

ALL THE NOBES:

There's an exceptional full-frontal when Melanie peels off her towel. Emmett's chat-room moment at the keyboard is notable not so much for the nudity as for his astonishing accuracy when typing with one hand.



**“ You seduced him.
He’s yours. Kindly see that
he takes his allergy medicine
and does his homework.
And gets to school on time. ”**

Jennifer (left) to Brian, episode 108

110 Brian rescinds his offer of shelter after he’s robbed, so Justin runs away to New York City. The boys go off to find him, disregarding the warnings from bar tarot reader Mistress Marilyn. Michael decides against moving in with Dr. David, who ends the relationship, while Debbie tells the returned Justin he can have Michael’s old room. Emmett’s drug problem pops up. Lindsay decides she wants to be able to stay home with Gus rather than go back to work.

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

Michael: “If you’re not careful, you’re gonna get addicted.”

Emmett: “Please. I’ve been doing it for years.”

ACCORDING TO EMMETT, PART 2:

“I have a problem with rubber. It accentuates my hips.”

ALL THE NOTES:

Michael and David in the shower reverie moment.

111 Turning 30, Michael has a small surprise party at work and a huge one at Brian’s. Debbie asks Brian to let Michael go so he can be happy with Dr. David. Ted has an HIV scare, so Emmett goes in with him to be tested. A call from the center asking Emmett to return makes him promise God he’ll give up men if he tests negative.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian: “If I invited just your friends there’d be, like, six people here. I had to open it up to sex partners.”

Michael: “I haven’t slept with any of these people.”

Brian: “My sex partners.”

POOR TED:

Ted: “He’s one of my best friends—I can’t let his 30th birthday go by without getting him something cheap and demeaning.”

112

Emmett gives up man-on-man sex and joins the conversion group See the Light. Ted takes up the slack by snagging Brian’s castoffs now that Brian is searching for new playmates. Michael unpacks his things at Dr. David’s only to find that Captain Astro and understated good taste don’t easily mesh. Melsie and Lindsay process their feelings.

BRIAN’S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I guy in an alleyway

I incident with Justin involving ice cream

POOR TED:

Ted: “[Brian] wants me to meet him at Woody’s after work”

Emmett: “God, he must really be desperate.”

113 Emmett resists temptation even though Michael and Ted have rented his favorite porn star to lure him from the light. Brian fails to resist temptation even though it’s a coworker spread on top of his desk at the office. Melanie doesn’t resist temptation either.

BRIAN’S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

2, but it’s the same guy, once on the job, once at home

SOMETHING BLUE:

Marienne’s successful pickup line to Melanie: “I suppose you could say I am PC...that is, if PC means ‘performs cunnilingus.’”

114 Brian’s office trick goes bad when Mr. Kinney gets sued for sexual harassment. Michael runs to Brian’s aid but has to lie to Dr. David to do so. Emmett just lies to himself about being straight.

BRIAN’S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

0: Litigation curtails libido, it would appear.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Melanie: “What are you, Mr. Telfon? Shit just never sticks to you.”

115 Brian babysits Gus, forcing him to deal with father issues: being one, having one, losing the one he’s got. Ted allows himself to deal with his own daddy issues when a school friend turns out to be a leather master. Dr. David drives his visiting son crazy.

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

“As long as your erogenous zones are covered, you’re safely in the conservative code.”

POOR TED:

Brian: “You’ll always be old...old...reliable Ted.”

116 Francophobia rears its head when the gang find out Lindsay is planning a green-card marriage to Guillaume, a fetching but arrogant Frenchman from her school. After being suspended for defending himself against classroom bullies, Justin tries to organize a gay-straight alliance at St. James Academy but meets with limited success in spite of Debbie’s help. Michael wants to pay his own way in the relationship but comes to realize the folly of this and allows Dr. David to take him to Paris.

OKS SEX:

“That’s the way people are. They’re ignorant. And they’re scared. And there’s nothing you can do. Except educate ‘em. Or shoot ‘em.”

ALL THE NOTES:

Brian and Justin strategize in the buff; Michael and Dr. David practice their French. The gym locker room, of course, is always a delight.

117 Michael is rather full of himself after returning from Paris. Dr. David throws a political fundraiser for Senator Baxter, to which Michael pointedly fails to invite his friends and family, feeling it's not for them. Brian funds their way in. Justin's attempts to organize a gay-straight alliance are met with more success after he makes a political connection at the party. Lindsay's impending sham of a wedding is stopped dead when Brian finally signs over his parental rights to Melanie on the condition that the women reconcile.

DER REE:

Michael: "Try the brie."
Debbie: "Tastes like come. Where's the cheddar?"

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Guillaume: "Look who's here, Gus. Your sperm donor."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL, PART 2:

Brian, to the ladies: "You're a bunch of dykes, for Christ's sake. Toughen up."

ACCORDING TO LINDSAY:

"Now and then, I must admit, I've often dreamed of being a bride. It's true. I suppose even dykes can't escape that fantasy."

118 Ted stumbles across Blake, quite literally, as he is passed out on the bathroom floor at Babylon. He takes him to the E.R., then home, only to find his wallet mysteriously missing. Dr. David goes to the baths, where he's busted by Michael. Justin wavers between arts school in Pittsburgh or an MBA at Dartmouth.

DER REE:

To Justin: "Well, all due respect to your mother, who's a very lovely lady...who gives a shit what they want?"

POOR TED:

Emmett: "Let's go to Babylon. Dozens of beautiful men will reject you, and you'll feel so much better."

119 Daphne wants Justin to be her first time so she'll know what to expect with her boyfriend, but rehearsal becomes opening night for Daphne, leaving Justin wondering what's going on. Ted operates under the belief that love will conquer crystal meth as far as Blake is concerned. Brian's father dies.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Wake repartee: "What's in the bag, Uncle Brian?"
"Grandpa's head."

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

To Justin: "It's like I don't even know you. You've just become this full-time homosexual."



“Let's go to Babylon. Dozens of beautiful men will reject you, and you'll feel so much better.”

Emmett (left) to Ted (right), episode 118

120 It's King of Babylon time again, a beefcake contest that involves not only the expected platoon of strippers but eventually Dr. David and Justin, who leaves with both the crown and Brian's behavioral pattern. Vic is arrested for indecent exposure in a store men's room. Blake ingratiate himself by making it possible to post Vic's bail on a Saturday night.

ALL THE RUDES:

Special notice must be taken of the fireman who sprays the horde at Babylon with a geyser of glitter from his impressive hose.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Justin: "Sad, isn't it? All these older guys, still partying way past their prime—they don't know when to stop. So how about the real thing?"

121 An "Ad Person of the Year" award and its hunky presenter convince Brian that his professional future lies in New York City. Dr. David needs to move to Oregon, and an uncertain Michael agrees to go with him. Melanie helps Blake get a temp job in her office and also gets Vic's public-exposure trial thrown out of court.

ALL THE RUDES:

In one of Ted's more audacious moments, he gets on his knees for Blake in a dressing room that

consists of nothing more than a circle of fabric in the middle of the store, making the entire enterprise visible in silhouette. Nice hairy shot of Blake too.

POOR VIC:

"I can't remember the last time someone looked at me. Or touched me. It was probably that Filipino nurse who gave me that barium enema. That was a treat."

122 Brian finally turns 30, and he's not about to do so gracefully. Justin wants him to be his prom date, but Brian considers it beneath him. Michael resents the control Dr. David has taken over his life once they started the move and begins to get cold feet. Brian makes it to the prom after all and takes an impossibly romantic spin with Justin around the dance floor. When Chris Hobbe attacks Justin in the parking lot, though, the fun ends. Just as Michael is boarding the plane for Oregon, Brian calls him.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Lindsay: "I think that's so adorable that he asked you [to the prom], despite the somewhat questionable difference in your ages and the fact that emotionally he's 12 years your senior."

POOR TED:

Ted: "You two have never looked more butch."
Melanie: "Neither have you."

SEASON TWO

episode

201 Brian keeps a private late-night vigi over Justin until he's released from the hospital. Lindsay, in the middle of proposing a toast at her sister's wedding, tosses in a proposal to Melanie as well. Michael returns from Oregon for keeps. Chris Hobbs gets a remarkably lenient sentence for assaulting Justin. Jennifer tells Brian to go away.

DEB DEB:

"Eagle Scout's honor. And they're all fags, you know."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"Why shouldn't [Michael] get a little action? He's outside the required 400-mile limit for extramarital quickies and anonymous assignments. Mind you, if you want to do anything further, you'll need overseas travel and a minimum 14-day stay."

202 Jennifer realizes her error and asks Brian to take Justin in. Ted gets fired after being caught surfing for porn on his coffee break. Melanie proposes to Lindsay. Michael and Emmett get jobs as nude waiters, but Michael ends up back at the Big Q anyway. Brian works to help Justin remember what happened the night of the attack.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Bathroom acquaintance: "For someone who has enough disorders to merit your own classification in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, you are one of the most well-adjusted and high-functioning bastards I know."

POOR TED:

"I'm going to talk to Wertschaffer, confront him like

a man, tell him, 'Look, I've been a loyal and devoted employee here for nine years. You've got no right to treat me like this just because I'm gay.' Then I'm gonna grovel."

203 Emmett gets a domestic position with a gay couple who appear to be as flawless and politically correct as the duo in his favorite soap opera. *Gay as Blazes*. Brian is getting an Outstanding Gay Hero Award for saving Justin, but moral conscience of the gay community Howard Bellweather publicly protests, saying that Brian's lifestyle makes him unworthy of the honor. The tables turn when Michael and Emmett run across the writer at a barebacking party, however. Michael tries to reconnect with Brian at Comi-Con, a date Brian makes—but only eventually.

BLAME CANADA:

Though it differs by but one digit, the number with a 416 area code on the sign behind Justin belongs not in Pittsburgh (412) but in Toronto.

CONTINUITY ALERT:

Note Emmett's ease in the kitchen as he whips up his sauce piquant. Later culinary adventures are decidedly less well-managed.

204 Local drag legend Godiva dresses, leaving behind little more than a spangled dress. Brian decides that the best way to market his homophobic client's line of wine coolers is in gay bars. Melanie's incredibly hot ex, Leda, breezes into town for gay pride season, making Lindsay a bit uncomfortable. Ted connects with a really hot guy but fails to recognize it for the annual charity gesture that it is. Michael finally marches with his mom in the PFLAG contingent—but wearing Godiva's frock so as not to be recognized.

POOR TED:

Ted's hot trick: "For pride I go out, find some guy—like you—and give him a break. I give him me. It's my way of giving back to the community."

ALL THE NUDES:

Ted is lustily topped by his hunk, and with pride.

205 The humiliation at the Big Q gets out of hand and Brian is forced to quit, only to find the opportunity to own a comic book store presenting itself. Ted quits the accounting job Brian got him at his firm to follow his dream, which turns out to be running a porn Web site. Justin wants to quit art school when it appears his damaged hand will prove an insurmountable problem.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

To Ted: "If you see me at lunch, pretend like you don't know me."

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Justin, on his postcollege plans: "I could be here [at Babylon] popping pills and drinking beer and sticking my hand down guys' pants."

206 Ted's fledgling porn site is in danger of going under when Emmett steps in to provide the needed talent. Lindsay's problem with Ted's new adventure bothers Melanie, since she has a bit of the blue movies in her past as well. Brian sets up his new store when his next beautiful boyfriend, professor Ben Bruckner, walks in the door. Feeling closer to Brian than ever, Justin comes home to find him at it on the couch, which forces the two of them to negotiate the rules for their relationship.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Grocery shopper, spotting Brian: "See that guy? That's Brian Kinney. He used to be the hottest stud on Liberty Avenue. Now he's in a relationship."

Randy Harrison

If Justin were a real person, would you be his friend? It's difficult for me to imagine Justin as a real person. He's so thoroughly a character created for serial television. How could I be friends with someone who has nervous breakdowns at spilled marinara sauce, assaults high school enemies with small firearms, and has been systematically and repeatedly betrayed, lied to, condescended to, and humiliated by his boyfriend for four years?

What have you learned about yourself by playing Justin? What I've learned most while working on QAF [is] the importance of being constantly aware that people are going to skew and censor you in order to make the idea of you better represent whatever agenda they've decided you'll promote.

What do you think is the biggest issue facing American gays and lesbians, and how well do you think QAF has addressed it? While I think QAF has done a re-

markable job addressing gay-specific politics—most notably gay marriage—it seems to ignore the fact that we are part of a global community of human beings even before we are part of a local community of homosexuals.

What one complaint about QAF bugs you the most? I find it ridiculous when people talk about QAF like it's supposed to carry some enormous humanitarian agenda. No one expects *The O.C.* to change the world.

Read Randy's full answers and additional questions at www.advocate.com.





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ALL THE SODES:

Better than the usual gym locker-room scene, as Zack O'Tool makes a return appearance.

207

Ben's being HIV-positive proves to be the one thing Debbie can't handle. Lindsay invites her parents over for a party—one that turns out to be the sort you don't want your parents to walk in on. Emmett's growing status as a Web site porn star makes him think he's in a position to make a demand or two. Ben's status is more than Michael can handle as well.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Leda: "And you must be the Antichrist. Big fan."

ALL THE SODES:

Emmett makes a lovely homage to Marilyn Monroe as he stretches his body across red satin.

208

Michael begins dating again even though he's still hung up on Ben. Emmett meets his secret admirer, the much older and vastly wealthy George Shickel. Justin gets a chance to behave like Brian when he meets a virginal young man while at a party with Daphne.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian, at Babylon: "So many men, so little body hair."

SOMETHING SLOE:

"Just for your information, Lindsay and I fuck like crazy. We pant and drool like a couple of bitches in heat."

209

Michael shamelessly does a karaoke version of "Ben" to persuade his handsome professor to give him another chance. Brian's mother discovers that he's gay—but not that he had her handsome minister at the bathhouse earlier. Ted avails himself of Emmett's Viagra stash, and the resulting boner fingers longer than a bad houseguest.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I priest at the baths
I Viagra-enhanced roundelay with a brace of sturdy young men

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

To his nephew: "Sit down and shut up, or I'll make sure your balls never drop."

210

Michael goes into deep mourning when his comic book hero, Captain Astro, is killed off when the fans start perceiving him as too gay. Debbie encounters a more tangible death when she opens the diner Dumpster and there's a young man's corpse inside, but Detective Carl Horvath shows little interest in finding the killer of a gay victim. Lindsay goes



QUEER AS FOLK

against them. They press on anyway; a band of fairies rescues the disaster at the last minute. Emmett goes shopping for a new butt.

ALL THE NUDER:

When Emmett looks for a sassier derriere, the doctor obligingly summons his hunky staff and has them drop trou to show the goods.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Lindsay, to Brian: "I want you to go. It wouldn't be right for you to stay. Brian Kinney sacrificing for others? I'd lose all faith, all hope."

212

Ben and Brian's White Party tryst surfaces, much to Michael's irritation. Ted is admitted to a gay A-list function but more as a ping than as a person. The cops drag their feet in the murder mystery, but Debbie's footwork turns up both the name of the boy found in the Dumpster and his sad past.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

1, sort of, if you count Ben all those years ago

SOMETHING ELSE:

Michael, to Ben: "Leave your underwear on. I'm gonna chew through 'em."

ALL THE NUDER:

Water-themed night at Babylon, plus a gratifying steam room sequence.

213

When Ted wants to get Pittsburgh's pride, drag legend Devina Devore, to work a charity function, it turns out Michael has an in: Back in high school Devina (né Danny) used to date Debbie. As this was nine months before Michael's birth, family secrets are soon spilled. Lindsay recruits Brian to play husband at a preschool interview for Gus. Juanin gets a job as a go-go boy, where he learns the line

“What kind of shorts are you wearing? Make sure they're not too tight. You get a heat wave down there, and all your little soldiers will be decimated.”

Debbie to Michael, episode 304

to liberate her Granny Faye's wedding dress from her parents' attic and discovers love letters from Granny's World War II romance with another woman. Emmett makes George take him to the opera to bring him out of his hermetic existence.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

George: "From what Emmett tells me, you're the love child of James Dean and Ayn Rand."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

Upon meeting George's ex-wife at the opera: "The reason I'm with George is, he gives spectacular head—a skill I'm certain he didn't learn from you."

211

Lindsay and Melanie get a tarot reading from the uncannily accurate Mistress Marilyn (episode 110), who warns them that their impending nuptials have the planets aligned

Scott Lowell

What single scene has been the most memorable for you? The whole crystal meth story line was the most rewarding. But the single scene and speech that I will always remember is the "God speech" Ted gives to Emmett back in season 1.

What have you learned about yourself by playing Ted?

That I've got nowhere near the level of self-loathing that Ted does.

What do you think is the biggest issue facing American gays and lesbians right now, and how well do you think *Queer as Folk* has done in addressing that issue? Hands down the issue of gay marriage is the biggest civil rights issue the country is facing. The fact that religious beliefs are blinding people to the civil issue at hand is infuriating to me. I think our show does a good job showing both sides of the issue from the gay perspective.

In what ways do you think *QAF* has influenced the portrayals of gays and lesbians on other TV programs?

I think it has raised the bar in terms of portraying gay characters as only—as Ron Cowen and Dan Lipman have already said—clowns or eunuchs. Hopefully the community won't stand for just that anymore. *QAF* was the first to show gay characters as three-dimensional, flawed, sexualized people.

Read Scott's full answers and additional questions at www.theadvocate.com.





“ I have a great ass. And I'm blond. You have no idea how far that gets me. ”

Justin (right), episode 213

between sexual harassment and career advancement is an exceedingly fine one.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Justin: "I have a great ass. And I'm blond. You have no idea how far that gets me."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian, upon being discovered spanking Justin: "Note to self: Be sure to lock the fucking door."

214 Just as their round-the-world trip begins, George's heart gives out while Emmett is inducting him into the Mile High Club. Justin's work proves detrimental to his education. Deb begins dating Horvath, so now she and Michael can both hate each other's boyfriends.

POOR TED:

Brian: "The reason you don't have a boyfriend is

because you don't want one. If you had one, it would challenge the well-established opinion that you have of yourself as a worthless sack of shit that nobody wants; therefore, you go after guys that you know will reject you, you stand around here and bitch like a high school girl, when in fact you've gotten exactly what you want—namely, nothing."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

On why he wants to induct George into the Mile High Club: "It's my first time in first class. I want to make sure you got your money's worth."

215 Justin and Michael create a comic book superhero based on Brian and call him Page. Emmett is barred from delivering a eulogy at George's memorial service but gets to do so at the porn awards when Fetch Dixon wins as New Cummer of the Year. Lindsay's plan to turn the attic into a studio is less DIY than DGA until Leda moves in to help.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

We're now well into the married-sex years, as Justin falls asleep in the middle of it.

OUR SEX:

Brian: "I don't do jealous. Jealous is for lesbians." Debbie: "Well, then you'd better start kickin' pussy."

216 Ben and Justin turn out to have the same birthday. Brian says he doesn't do birthdays but gives Justin a hustler. Michael gives Ben a surprise party; neither turns out to have been a good idea. Lindsay and Melanie take Justin to a recital, where he meets the very cute violinist Ethan. Ted meets a nice young man at church and lies about his job to him.

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"Why don't we do a geisha-sushi—Miss Saigon kind of thing?"

Peter Paige

If Emmett were a real person, would you be his friend? I already feel like Emmett is my friend. I've spent more time with him over the last four years than all my previous boyfriends combined. He's smart, funny, open, kind—what else exactly would you want in a friend?

What would you like to see in the future for Emmett?

I'd like to see Emmett address his family issues. And buy a car. Seriously, how is this guy getting around?

What do you think is the biggest issue facing American gays and lesbians right now, and how well do you think QAF has been in addressing that issue?

We are alive at an incredible moment in history—complete civil rights lie just ahead. Imagine how wonderful it will be for the next generation of gay youth, coming out in a world that demands for them the same rights, same privileges [as] everyone else. But, as with

every swing of the pendulum, there will be backlash. We must remain calm, true to ourselves, committed to our own possibilities. And we have to get that bastard out of the White House.

In what ways do you think QAF has influenced its viewers? It's straight people who seem to be most powerfully impacted by the show. What started as a freak show for them has so normalized the idea of same-sex relationships.

Read Peter's full answers and additional questions at www.advocate.com.



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22-23 Round Up

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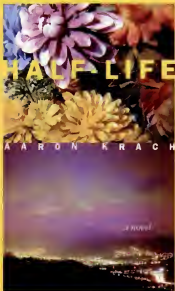
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ACCORDING TO TED:

To the fully *Madama Butterfly* Emmett: "You put the gay back in *geisha*."

217 Lesbian Bed Death visits the house of Lindsay and Melanie, but Leda has the solution. Emmett inherits a nice chunk of change from George's estate. Brian cancels out on a snowboarding trip with Justin when the ad agency is sold, and Brian has to stay in town to do some serious sucking up, but Justin goes anyway.

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

On worldly attachments: "There were a few interesting sales, but then I realized I don't need to buy on-sale anymore and it all suddenly seemed so empty."

On temps perdu: "The good thing about not balancing your checkbook is that when you finally do, you get to relive all your purchases. Ooh, the *Pleasure Vault*!"

218 Ben goes into the hospital when he has an adverse reaction to his meds.

George's lawyers contest Emmett's windfall and offer to settle for \$1 million to avoid making the affair public, but Emmett discovers that he has expensive scruples. Justin's attention is ignored by Brian but embraced by Ethan.

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I stranger, whom Justin gets to walk in on
I Justin, up against a pillar in the loft
I guy on his knees in the back room

ACCORDING TO MELANIE:

"The truth has as much to do with how gay men have to do with lesbians."

219 Ted's constant exposure to porn renders him immune to its charms. Leda finishes the studio but doesn't seem to be in any hurry to move on. Debbie challenges Horvath's bowling team to a match against the Liberty Balle, a hastily assembled gay team composed of the usual suspects. Michael tells Brian of Justin's dalliance with Ethan. Debbie gets a big public smooch from Horvath. Ted realizes he has feelings for Emmett.

OUR SEX:

Debbie: "Next year we're gonna roam their asses."
Brian: "Let's stick to bowling, shall we?"

SOMETHING BLUE:

Leda: "First I renovate your attic, and then I renovate your sex life, and then it's 'So long, Leda!'"

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian: "Who would have thought that you, Theodore Schmidt—loser, reject, putz—would wind up being the luckiest fucker in the world?"

SEASON THREE

episode

301

Michael tells Justin to get out of everyone's life now that he's left Brian for Ethan. Ted has sublet his apartment for the trip he didn't take, so Michael suggests he move in with him. Lindsay and Melanie have a party for their eighth anniversary, the highlight of which is Brian clocking Michael when he won't shut up about Justin. Ted and Emmett finally decide the time is right to have sex.

ACCORDING TO MICHAEL:

To Emmett: "I want you to have everything in the world, including the hottest sex. I just don't want to hear about it."

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I, with a hustler who looks just like Justin

302

A Justin-less Brian monopolizes all of Michael's time. Melanie and Lindsay discuss having another child. Justin finds out Brian is still covering his tuition and decides to start on a new issue of *Rage*. Newly coupled Emmett tries to cancel but ends up going through with a date made previous to his pairing.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

"They say, in the vast emptiness of space, the faster you move the slower you age. I have to believe the same holds true for Pittsburgh."

BRIAN'S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

I hustler, whom he turns into Justin

303

Debbie is nervous about her upcoming tryst with Horvath, so Ted and Emmett conduct a sex refresher course for

“I want you to have everything in the world, including the hottest sex. I just don't want to hear about it.”

Michael (right) to Emmett, episode 301

ALL THE NUDES:

Ted is part of a sequence where he plays the Brian Kinney part in a mound of writhing men. Twice.

220

Brian produces a big, expensive release party at Babylon when the first copy of *Rage* hits the streets. Justin and Michael, alas, have stopped speaking over Michael's betrayal. Ted gets ever more goatey over Emmett, who is initially unreciprocated but ultimately smitten. Ben plans to go to Tibet on a spiritual retreat but doesn't. Ethan

makes the release party, and Justin leaves with him.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

"You have no idea how vicious queers can be. Especially when it comes to someone else's success. That's why I've invited them all to a party."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"Once [Ben] realizes that there's no fucking, no dancing, no gym, and you have to wear orange—which, trust me, no human being looks good in no matter how spiritual—he'll forget all about it."

Michele Clunie

If Melanie were a real person, would you be her friend? We would most likely be very good friends. I enjoy surrounding myself with people who tell it like it is. She also has a very true heart, which is rare to find.

What have you learned about yourself by playing Melanie? I have learned through playing Melanie that people respond more to strength than to weakness. We all are looking for heroes.

What single scene has been the most memorable for you? I still and always will love the scene from the first season when we are in the hospital and they won't let Melanie go back with Linz and the baby. It was raw and true and right.

In what ways do you think *QAF* has influenced its viewers? It has made room for other less intimidating gay programming to be readily accepted. To create that sort of an impact one

cannot be timid or meek, but bold and in-your-face. Change does not happen easily. It takes balls. And that's what *Queer as Folk* has. Both literally and figuratively: balls.

What one complaint about *QAF* bugs you the most?

Everyone is entitled to their opinions. It is still a free country. Well, sort of. I am not interested in doing bland, boring, conventional, or safe work. Safe is not something that interests me.

Read Michele's full answers and additional questions at www.theadvocate.com



“ I am the most fabulous fag in Pittsburgh. That is, if it's possible to be fabulous in Pittsburgh. ”

Brian, episode 201

her. As a result, Horvath assumes she's a tramp. Melanie has a procedure to make pregnancy possible but decides she'll have nothing to do with Brian's DNA. After finding out a former lover has died of AIDS, Ben begins to inject steroids to ward off the wasting he so fears. Brian produces a fund-raiser for the gay and lesbian center, a Felliniesque affair that proves both lucrative and mortifying for the center.

ACCORDING TO MICHAEL:

"Ma, you already go to the same bars and same clubs I do, now you gotta come to the same gym? Can't I have one place in the world that's my own?"

SOMETHING BLUE:

Debbie: "Boys, you know I love you. I just need to ask one question."
Ted: "If it's about suppressing the gag reflex, we're getting to that."

304 While babysitting his nephew, Brian catches the lad stealing money, so the boy tells his homophobic mother he's been molested, leading to police intervention. Melanie and Lindsay want Michael to be the donor for the next baby, but Michael wants to be a father. Emmett and Ted get a place together—but not for long.

ACCORDING TO MICHAEL:

"I'm half Italian and half drag queen. I'm slowed to get worked up."

CONTINUITY ALERT:

This is the episode where Emmett seems to have forgotten how to cook without dirtying everything in the kitchen. The trait disappears when he goes into party planning at the end of the season, though.

305 When the gay-unfriendly police chief Stockwell runs for mayor, Brian lands the job of sexing up his campaign. Ethan fails to place first in the Heifetz competition but is offered representation as long as Justin stays out of the picture. Michael's performance problem at the donor center is solved when Ted hires a superhero to arouse him. Ben's steroid use escalates.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Michael, to Brian: "You whipped up the batter that eventually became Gus in a sex club?"

SHOCKING REVELATION:

Ted, it turns out, is a registered Republican.

306 Debbie warns Ted to be careful about his Web site in the new family-values environment but to no avail: Ted is arrested at the welcome-to-the-neighborhood cocktail party his neighbors throw for the new



Thea Gill

What is the one thing you would most like to say to Lindsay in person?

Right now I'd want to say to her, "What the hell's going on with you?"

What is one blessing you hope your character faces in a future episode?

I would want Lindsay's blessing to be the freedom to go back in

time to the days when Melanie and Lindsay first fell in love and live those memories over and over again. A type of a "Run Lindsay Run Back" episode!

What single scene has been the most memorable for you?
I have to say the prom dance scene in the finale episode of season 1 is one that is extremely memorable to me. On our final day of shooting, the last scene that was being shot was the one in which Randy's character, Justin, is being bashed in the head. Everyone in the cast and crew were there, and while we all witnessed the scene being

performed there was such a silence that pervaded the room that I'll never forget it.

What have you learned about yourself by playing Lindsay?
I've learned to be in my body more. I've learned to be more physically confident and to be proud of my body. I've learned to express myself more with it. I feel the most empowered I've ever felt, and I owe a lot of that to Lindsay, QAF, and all the gogo dancers!

Read Thea's full answers and additional questions at www.theadvocate.com



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“ You’ll be a great dad.
You raised me, didn’t you?
And look how I turned out.”

Brian (right) to Michael, episode 307

couple. Ethan gets a gig playing in Harrisburg and Justin secretly follows, catching the new boyfriend making time with an admirer. Ben’s steroid use is destroying everything but his fabulous good looks.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian: “For the life of me, I’ll never understand why so many gay men want to fuck their bodies up with drugs.”

ALL THE NUDES:

In Ted’s effort to keep everything aboveboard, the employees are assembled and quizzed. Naked. The weenie lineup is breathtaking.

307 Brian intercedes to keep Ted from going to jail, but Ted still loses his house and his business. Ethan’s out-of-town fling shows up with roses at his front door, which Justin answers. Ben quits steroids after Michael threatens to infect himself with one of Ben’s used needles. Vic finds a boyfriend at a meeting of HIV-positive men. Melanie makes the stick turn blue.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

To Michael, who’s worried about being a sperm donor: “You’ll be a great dad. You raised me, didn’t you? And look how I turned out.”

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

To Ted: “Even if worst comes to worst and you have to go to jail, it won’t be so bad. You’ll have time to read and work out. It’ll be like a spa vacation.”

308 Stockwell cleans up Liberty Avenue, forcing the young hustlers to ply their trade right beneath Michael and Ben’s window. Lindsay’s new job at the gallery involves planning an opening party, so she hires Emmett to do it. Justin regrets leaving Brian and starts working his way back into his life, beginning with taking an internship at Brian’s agency. Ted throws his back out and spends a great deal of time on pain pills.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian: “Most guys who’d just lost everything and been humiliated in all the major media would have

too much self-respect to show their face in public. But not you.”
Ted: “I don’t know whether to say ‘Thank you’ or ‘Fuck you.’”

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

“I feel like the town slut on prom night! Again!”

309 Melanie is supposed to be lightening her workload during pregnancy, but an important case takes priority. Woody’s is raided during a charity strip event and closed down. Stockwell fires Brian for being gay, but when his poll numbers take a dip over perceived homophobia, he hires him back. Ted becomes despondent over his unemployment.

ALL THE NUDES:

Brian promises one of the strippers at Woody’s \$100 if he shows his goods. He does.

ACCORDING TO BEN:

On seeing Brian and Justin together again: “It’s the most historic reunification since Germany.”

CONTINUITY ALERT:

Emmett is back to being a meticulously neat cook.

310 Justin secretly begins an anti-Stockwell campaign and prints the posters in the ad agency late at night. Ted heads out to the country for a little R&R but waylays at the skanky Paradise Motel, where he meets a doctor with quality crystal. Michael is worried Melanie isn’t taking care of herself and begins stalking her. Stockwell closes the back room at Babylon, which is the last straw for Brian. Hunter turns out to be HIV-positive and needs to be told. Ben takes Hunter under his wing when the hospital calls thinking Ben is his uncle.

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Discussing Michael: “You’d think with all the chronic masturbation he’d be calm, but he’s a jangle of nerves.”

ALL THE NUDES:

While the Paradise Motel sequence is a cavalcade of lushly photographed nudes, it seems to have been rather a cold day.

ONE SEX:

“Who’s worrying? That’s my job, damn it.”

311 Now that they have HIV in common, Ben is determined to help Hunter. Melanie and Lindsay set up a college fund for Gus and ask Ted to manage it, but he uses it to spend time with his new friends at the White Party in Palm Springs, Calif. Brian sets up a trap for Stockwell, who has Brian fired once he realizes who the culprit is.

BRIAN’S SCORE THIS EPISODE:

2, both Justin. Yawn.

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"I finally gave my notice at Torino. Au revoir, auf Wiedersehen, and good riddance to peddling polyester pullovers to tweaked-out club kids."

OUR SEX:

"I love the Airplane. I lived for Grace Slick. Now we've got Brinley Spears. Tell me the world isn't going to shit."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT, PART 2:

"My life is a Lana Turner movie. I don't need to see one."

312 When he returns from the White Party, Ted's drug use is more entrenched than anyone realized, and even Emmett is talked into dabbling. Emmett has words with Melanie when she loses patience with his making excuses for Ted. Hunter turns out to have a lead on the murderer of the young man in the Dumpster (remember, from episode 210?), and it's a cop. Horvath says the case is closed, but both Brian and Debbie persist in tracking the killer down.

BRIAN'S SCENE THIS EPISODE:

High. In an act of charity, Brian turns his loft into a back room until the one at Babylon reopens.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Justin, sleuthing in a wrinkle bar: "Accept the fact that youth is fleeting, that time will inevitably leave its mark, and that we should accept our mortality with grace and dignity. Until then, I could really clean up in this place."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Brian: "I miss the good old days of politics when we had real crooks and real liars: Nixon, Bush the First—"

313 Justin is suspended when he refuses to apologize for his guerrilla art project. Brian goes hunting for a DNA sample from the killer only to have Hunter beat him to the punch and deliver a condom full of it. Ted invites all of his crystal buddies over, and Emmett caters the affair, but Ted throws Emmett out anyway. Emmett makes nice with Melanie and moves in with the girls. Hunter cleans up his act.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Hunter, justifying hunting: "I have low self-esteem. I was sexualized at too early an age. It's exciting, fun, and a great way to make nonreportable income."

BRIAN, MR. WONDERFUL:

Michael, on Brian: "He already has a boyfriend."

Hunter, to Brian: "You do?"

Brian: "In a nondefined, noncommittal way."

314 Hunter's mother appears out of the blue, but he wants nothing to do with her, putting Ben and Michael in an awkward position. Melanie is worried about her first trimester. Debbie tries to rouse the voters in the face of the police state Liberty Avenue has become. Ted passes out at a crystal party and is so horrified to find himself the subject of an amateur porn tape that he checks himself into rehab, where he again encounters Blake, now a counselor. Stockwell loses the mayoral race, and Liberty Avenue becomes a dance floor.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH:

Brian: "This used to be such a magical kingdom, full of sprites and fairies."

Justin: "Now it's like watching *The Wizard of Oz* in reverse."

ACCORDING TO EMMETT:

"[My daddy] bought me boxing gloves to teach me to be a man. I put rhinestones on 'em."

ALL THE NOTES:

Pregnant lesbian sex

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SEASON FOUR

Middle age comes to each of us on its own schedule. In the case of *Queer as Folk*, it appears to have arrived in season 4. The loss of youth, the loss of life, and Brian's diet of almost nothing but monogamous sex are indications that we're not the kids we once were. The eternally cool, damp environs of Toronto—er, Pittsburgh—provide the perfect locale for pensive reflection and, in episode 409, Emmett's white-on-white ensemble that reminds one of the lovely young Julie Christie cloaked against the Russian winter. We proceed:

episode

401 Liberty Avenue throws a surprise benefit for Brian, whose fortune was spent defeating Stockwell. Hunter looks as though he'll be returned to his mother until she calls him a "dirty little faggot" in front of the judge. Emmett visits Ted in rehab. The neighborhood discusses self-protection but not in time for drag bijou Shanda Leer, who gets bashed.

402 Emmett, with Michael in tow, attends a Radical Faeries gathering in order to relight his inner flame. Brian's new agency, Kinnetic, steals away one of his former agency's accounts by using honesty instead of beefcake. Ted negotiates post-rehab life. Justin runs into the aggressively butch little Cody, from the neighborhood meeting, at Woody's. The vigilante patrol group Pink Posse is born.

403 Ted follows his dream of singing opera, albeit in an Italian restaurant. Vic and Rodney get a place of their own, leaving Deb at loose ends. The Pink Posse quickly escalates from defending Liberty Avenue to preemptively beating straight men up on their own turf. Jennifer finds Brian a bathhouse he can turn into the offices of Kinnetic.

404 Ted works accounting magic for Brian, who offers him a job with Kinnetic. Melanie's lesbian child custody case may be taken away from her. With Vic out of her house, Deb becomes an overbearing presence at Michael's. Living with lesbians is cramping Emmett's style. Cody lets Justin play with his pistol; Justin likes it.

Daniel Lipman & Ron Cowen

If these characters were real people, would you be friends with them?

First off, all the characters are real—to us. They truly speak to us, tell us what words to put in their mouths, dictate their behavior—as any good character does. We love every one of them—warts and all. Just as one accepts their closest and dearest friends.

What have you learned about yourselves by creating these characters?

These characters represent aspects of both of us. Reality. Fantasy. What we wish we could be. What we're glad we're not. They act out behaviors for us. And suffer the consequences for us.

In what ways do you think *QAF* has influenced the portrayals of gays on other TV programs? *QAF* threw down the gauntlet and set a standard for all portrayals of gay characters in its wake. Sure, there were and will continue to be gay characters

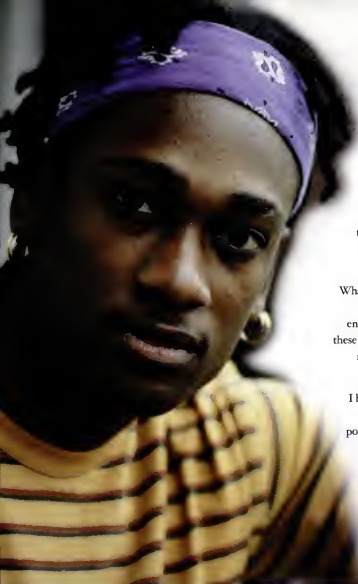
who have no discernable sex life and who are just there for laughs. But the fact that *QAF* exists makes that kind of two-dimensional portrayal feel exactly like what it is: incomplete.

What one complaint about *QAF* bugs you the most and why? We try to cover every aspect of the gay community. Our job is to tell the truth. And the truth isn't always politically correct. People want to see gay judges and gay brain surgeons and monogamous relationships. All well and good. We like that too. But that's not all gay people either.

Read Dan and Ron's full answers and additional questions at www.theadvocate.com



QAF creators and executive producers Cowen (left) and Lipman



Self-hatred, pity, depression

and loneliness; here they are again, how did this happen? Why do I always end up back here? What can the 19th treatment center teach me that I haven't heard before.

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-Ruben

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405

Ted distributes amends
notes to everyone—but
Emmett. Melanie sulks
when her case is given to a straight white male
lawyer but eventually offers her assistance.
Michael lies and says he liked Ben's boring
novel. Em and Deb start hanging out. Justin
and Cody humiliate Justin-basher Chris Hobbes
with their new friend, the handgun.

406

Ted's written apology
eventually gets to
Emmett. Blake's tardy
apology to Ted is sealed with a kiss. Hollywood
nibbles at turning *Rage* into a movie. Lindsay
meets artist Sam Auerbach and finds him con-
temptible yet oddly charming. Vic dies—but
not before pissing off Deb. Brian tricks with a
doctor, who finds a testicular irregularity.

407

Brian says he's going to
Ibiza, but he's leaving
town for cancer surgery.
Blake breaks it off with Ted. Deb throws a
Christmas party in February per Vic's wishes.
A recovered Shanda Lear performs holiday
favorites. Deb has a breakdown when her
perfect party turns out not to be.



408

Hollywood heat on *Rage*
grows. Ben's novel lan-
guishes. Justin learns of
Brian's cancer by mistake and tells Michael...
who tells Brian...who throws Justin out for
telling what he wasn't supposed to know.
Detective Carl Horvath checks in on Deb.
Vic visits Brian in an anesthesia dream. Deb
works extra shifts to pay for a massive
headstone.

409

Ben has an admirer in a
former student, who ap-
preciates Ben's novel.
Michael and Justin each get a \$10,000 check
from Hollywood. Deb settles on a reasonable
headstone. Ted covers a presentation with
Kinney flair when Brian's radiation therapy
sends him home. When Emmett goes to pick
up his catering fee from a football player, the
quarterback violates his tight end. ■

Jones also writes for Back Stage West.

Queer as comics

Meet a real-life Michael Novotny: Richard Neal, owner of Dallas's Zeus Comics and Collectibles
By TODD CAMP

It wasn't long after Richard Neal opened Zeus Comics and Collectibles in Dallas's gaycentric Oak Lawn area that *Queer as Folk* fans started recognizing some similarities. "People were coming in and saying, 'Oh, you're just like Michael,'" recalls Neal, after sheepishly admitting that he's never actually watched the show. "And I'm thinking, *Who the hell is Michael?*"

But even though Neal and *QAF*'s comic book impresario Michael Novotny (played by Hal Sparks) share the same profession, the similarities end there. Neal certainly won't be mistaken for Sparks any time soon—"I'm pale, and I have red hair," notes Neal, "so I don't think I look like him." And Neal's spacious, well-organized shop—devoting as much of its 3,000 square feet to toys and collectibles as it does to comics—bears little resemblance to the claustrophobic closet that is Michael's Pittsburgh-based Red Cape Comics.

But when it comes to following a dream, these guys are on the same page. Michael is driven by his childhood passion for fictional superhero Captain Astro. For Neal, it was the Justice League of America. "My parents bought my first comic book when I was 7—and I just fell in love with it," he says, "with the giant oversized superheroes. And it didn't hurt that I was gay and they were wearing spandex."

Toiling away in the information technology field—and rapidly approaching 30—Neal had an epiphany: "I said, I'm not doing what I want to do. This is not



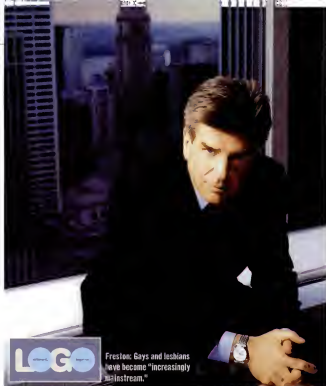
my passion. What do I really love?" And as childish as it was, toys and comic books were it."

Tapping into four widely diverse

But I play one on TV: Real-life comics shop owner Neal (left) shares Michael's gig.

nearby communities, Neal says his shop attracts a gay following of about 30%, and he even hosts a highly regarded mixer for gay and lesbian comic book fans every three or four months at nearby restaurant Ciudad. "And thanks to *Queer as Folk*, they've made comic book collecting chic, I suppose." ■

Camp is the artistic director of Q Cinema, Fort Worth's Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival.



t e l e v i s i o n

Just how far will Logo go?

As MTV chief Tom Freston launches the first gay-themed basic-cable channel, viewers and marketers assess its PG-rated plan **BY GREG HERNANDEZ**

The late May announcement that MTV Networks will launch a gay-themed channel called Logo in February 2005 came without much info about what programming the basic-cable service will offer. (That's due to be unveiled in late July). But even without specifics, Wall Street analysts are bullish on Logo's potential to lure ad revenue and viewers, citing the Viacom division's track record with such niche channels as MTV, VH1, BET, TV Land, and Comedy Central. "Viacom

does a lot of research on its networks, and [Viacom head] Sumner Redstone has been talking about some kind of gay network for years," notes Angela Kohler, a global media analyst with Federated Investors in Pittsburgh.

The Traditional Values Coalition has taken note as well, protesting the channel without bothering to wait for word on its content. But Tom Freston, chairman and CEO of MTV Networks, does not expect widespread backlash. "We know that some people are uncomfortable with the concept of the gay and

lesbian community, period," Freston says. "However, it's fair to say that it has really reached a level in the last several years of being increasingly mainstream."

Freston plans for Logo to reach a vast audience: an estimated 3 million same-sex households in the United States, one third of which are in the largest 10 television markets. Cable systems in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and San Francisco are already on board.

Logo will begin with about 25% original programming, says MTV Networks president Judy McGrath. "We've reached out to producers and writers to develop original series and specials." There are also deals in place to acquire 100 existing specials and movies, including titles such as *Gods and Monsters* and *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*

Joan M. Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—whose life partner, Eileen Opatut, works on programming at Logo—notes that gays and lesbians "aren't going hold Logo to any greater or lesser standard" than any other TV network. "The first thing they have to do is capture the imagination of their viewers, just like any channel."

One thing the free channel won't have is unedited versions of popular R- or X-rated queer programs. That sets it apart from Toronto-based PrideVision TV, the Canadian subscription channel that offers adult entertainment, and Here TV, the U.S. pay-per-view service that shows uncut features and plans to launch a 24-hour subscription network October 1. "PrideVision is not 'gay lite,' it's gay," says Jason Hughes, PrideVision's director of sales and marketing. "If you get a station on a basic tier, you are really watering down the content."

But that doesn't mean Logo won't be groundbreaking, Hughes adds. "The real big news is that there will be a way [for advertisers] to reach significant numbers of gay men and lesbians in a broadcast medium. Broadcast gives a brand a voice. You can spend time with the consumer; it allows you to tell a story. For most large brands in America, television continues to be the driver of the marketing communications plan." ■

Hernandez reports on Hollywood for the Los Angeles Daily News.

television

Deputy Short Shorts

Tom Lennon shows a lot of leg—and wit—on Comedy Central's hilarious *Reno 911!*

By Vincent Lopez



It's Deputy Wiegel's birthday, and her fellow officers have given her the gift that keeps on giving—a cheerily wrapped shotgun tied to a dozen balloons. Moments later the gun has slipped out of Wiegel's hands and is flying away across the Reno skyline while the rest of them debate whether to chase it or just pump it full of lead. This is *Reno 911!* the cop show where things like this just...happen. All the time.

It's a cloudy day on the set of *Reno*, which is filmed at an actual active police station. "This season is a lot weirder," says Tom Lennon, one of the show's creators and the man behind the mustache of the fictional Lieutenant Dangle, the force's gay member. Then Lennon politely excuses himself to pull a bomb-sniffing robot's claw off of Deputy Jones's crotch.

Comedy Central's mockumentary series following the trials and tribulations of the nation's worst police force is currently in its second season, and it's about time too. We were starting to miss one of the best improv shows on TV—not to mention the best gay character to ever wear nonregulation police shorts.

"I like playing a gay character who's not defined by being gay," says Lennon

of Dangle, a guy he describes with a smile as "an incredibly macho high-desert gay cop." For Lennon, who's straight, it was a matter of creating a character who could keep with the campy concept of the show without being just a simple mockery. "I asked, 'How are cops going to react, and how are gay men going to react?'" he says. Both have fallen in love with Dangle and the show. *Reno* was even nominated for a GLAAD Media Award.

It's probably the shorts. "[Dangle] started with the outfit. I was dead set on shorts—really, really short shorts. And extremely tight," Lennon says. But the magic of *Reno 911!* isn't just about the shorts—it's about the comic talents of Lennon, Kerri Kenney, and Robert Ben Garant, alumni of the sketch comedy group the State and the masterminds behind *Reno*'s cop concept.

Where else on TV will you find a gruff, gun-toting new hero who can take down a perp while still making sure his hair looks perfect? Tune in for an endless stream of surprises, including Dangle's, yes, wife. "Oh," adds Lennon, "and I think my highlights are a little bit better this year." ■

Lopez is a writer and producer for G4 Television.



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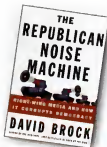
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books

Danger on the Right



Former conservative journalist and current media watchdog David Brock talks about his new book documenting the right wing's grip on the airwaves
BY CHAD GRAHAM



If ever there was an easy target for the rants of Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, and Bill O'Reilly, it's David Brock. The openly gay author used to be part of conservative America's fold—he cut his teeth as a journalist by trashing the likes of Anita Hill and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

But in a much-reported mea culpa in 1998, Brock apologized to President Clinton for introducing the world to Paula Jones, and in 2001 he apologized to Hill for spreading lies about her. What's more, he became a Democrat and wrote a best-selling book about his experience, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*.

This spring Brock started a watchdog group, Media Matters for America, to monitor conservative bias. Now he has written a new book: *The Republican Noise Machine: Right-wing Media and How It Corrupts Democracy* (Crown, \$25.95). It provides a fascinating look at how the Right insinuates its message into the mainstream media while crying

foul about news organizations' supposed liberal bias.

Speaking by phone with Brock at his Washington office, *The Advocate* had a few questions.

We've finished reading the book and are sufficiently scared of the Republican noise machine. They have built this incredibly strong media infrastructure that no one's talking about. With the exception of Air America Radio, why are Democrats being such weenies about creating their own noise machine?

I think for the [past] 20 years, definitely the Right understood—in a way that Democrats did not—the structural changes in the media: how information moves much more quickly and that one had to communicate in a different and more effective way.

I think a lot of it started in the late 1980s with nationally syndicated right-wing talk radio, with Limbaugh and the growth of cable and the Internet. All of

those things have substantially changed the playing field of the media, so there's a structural problem for Democrats and liberals. People are starting to fashion responses, but we're at the very beginning. People have to understand that the right wing worked for three decades on this—and they were patient and strategic and they put a lot of money into it—and nothing is going to change overnight.

The news has been dominated by weddings in Massachusetts. From your perspective, why do so many right-wingers hate the idea of marriage for gay men and lesbians?

I think they oppose anything that seems to give legitimacy to gay people—it's not particular to marriage. They're pretty much hostile to any progress for gay people. You can tell what the base of the Republican Party is all about these days by looking at the media it consumes. It is based on racism, homophobia, and prejudice against women. Look at the content of the media that these people are con-

suming, you'll see that those are the themes and that's how they feed their audience. Gay marriage is just another issue to energize people who have prejudice.

What motivates gay Republicans to continue supporting President George Bush, who has come out against same-sex marriage?

I just don't want to accuse people of having motives they may not have. But clearly, part of it is how you grow up; part of it is where your career is. If you're in a political type of job and you are in a party—doesn't matter which party it is—it's difficult to leave. On a more fundamental level, for some, it may be that

That's kind of odd, because he has a history of singling out progressives with Jewish-sounding names and ridiculing them with this exaggerated Brooklyn accent.

The Advocate doesn't think you have a lisp. We'd tell you if you did.

It's just some way of gay-baiting me with his audience.

For the most part, Democrats have completely welcomed you into their fold. Why do they trust you?

Had I not written a book about [my conversion], where I had a chance to explain the whole thing and try to make it under-

standable, it might have been more difficult. There has been some skepticism, and I think that's normal with any kind of ideological convert.

What do you hope average Americans, who aren't part of the media, will get out of your book?

I think it does have a lot of information about how various pundits, many of whom are household names, got their start. You have these hugely right-wing influential figures, and I feel like no one knows where they came from and who they are. Like, who is Sean Hannity? You

"You have these hugely right-wing influential figures, and I feel like no one knows where they came from and who they are."

they're uncomfortable—even if they're openly gay—they're still uncomfortable with being gay. Somehow they see the Republican Party as representing something more mainstream or normal than the Democratic Party.

Is there a particular media outlet that pisses you off the most?

There really isn't. In the new media sectors—cable, radio, and the Internet—there is disproportionate conservative influence in all of those areas, to the point that liberal voices are hardly heard. It's not one particular thing. Each is problematic in its own way.

Has your book caught the attention of Bill O'Reilly or Rush Limbaugh?

Michael Savage [the ultraconservative radio host based in San Francisco] attacked me. I was on the *Today* show for the book, and he played the audio of me on his show. Then he talked about how I lisped and how you can't trust anyone with a lisp.

[Brook reads what Savage said on May 18]: "Turn it off, I don't like his voice, I don't like the lisp.... I don't like guys who sound like that. They give me the creeps.... Your voice sucks. People don't listen to guys with voices like that no matter what their politics are. You've got to have a pair of balls." And then Savage makes this odd [remark], where he says, "I don't know who this guy is.... David Broken or David Brocksstein."

standable, it might have been more difficult. There has been some skepticism, and I think that's normal with any kind of ideological convert.

What I wanted to do is make a contribution in a better direction. Probably there's some value in having someone working against the conservative movement who's experienced in the operations of the conservative movement.

What are your thoughts on John Kerry? Although he's supported many aspects of gay rights, he does not support marriage for gay men and lesbians.

That is the mainstream Democratic position, right?

Right—there have been fewer than 10 lawmakers on Capitol Hill who've publicly supported same-sex marriage.

You know, the culture moves, and then the elected leaders move. What the Right has been so effective at doing is moving the culture in their direction. Often the Right does not look first to its political leaders for leadership; they go out and do it. Then they bring people in.

You can provide the opportunity for more vigorous leadership among Democrats by trying to change the dynamic in which they're operating. It's very hard to be a Democratic leader in this climate. You make a strong statement in terms of views and beliefs, and the way the media treats it, you have your head handed to

go back and look, and you can see that he got his start with some gay baiting and with some racist commentary.

Do people know that Rush Limbaugh got fired from several jobs before he caught hold and caught an audience? I think these details are interesting. All these people with huge audiences are never covered. [Editor's note: *The Advocate* interviewed Bill O'Reilly in its September 17, 2002, issue.] And what they say tends to exist only in the right-wing netherworld. People are watching but don't know really what they're watching.

Now for the frivolous questions. Who makes a better boyfriend, a gay Republican or a gay Democrat, and why?

I'm trying to think if I ever had a gay Republican boyfriend. I don't think I did.

Do you currently have a partner?

Yes. We've been together for a little more than three years. He owns a restaurant and art gallery in Washington. He was the roommate of a friend of mine who worked in the last administration, and there was a going-away party for my friend because he was going on a fellowship out of the country after the Republicans stole the election, and that's how I met James [Alefantis].

Any plans to get married?

We've talked about it. It's just a question of where it's legal to do it, but we've contemplated it. ■

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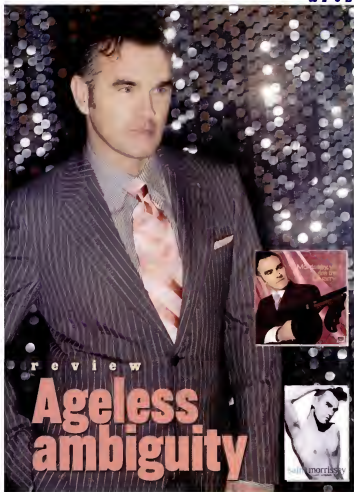
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Morrissey's back with a new album, and longtime British fan and biographer Mark Simpson still wants him **By Dave White**

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Ask almost anyone who grew up a social outcast in the 1980s, and they'll all tell you the same thing: The Smiths saved their lives. Whether they were downcast, opinionated girls with asymmetrical hair or sexually frustrated boys curiously fondling the British guitar band's first album with its intoxicatingly blue-tint-

ed cover art of a meaty, shirtless Joe Dallesandro, Smiths fans were smitten to the point of obsession. They hung on lead singer Morrissey's every razor-sharp, perverse, literary lyric and drew strength from the man's absolute disassociation from all that was cruel and crass about that decade. The "son and heir of nothing in particular," as Morrissey called himself in the Smiths' biggest hit, "How Soon Is Now," was their fey, fearless leader.

And according to queer British writer Mark Simpson's desperately readable

new book—the not so tongue-in-cheekily titled *Saint Morrissey*—the Smiths' front man was and still is the author's one true love. Equal parts biography, sociology text, and mash note, *Saint Morrissey* is the most complete account yet of Morrissey's influence on pop music and a fervent memoir of fandom.

Each stage of the artist's life is subject to Simpson's adoring yet clear-eyed gaze, including Morrissey's famously celibate status as a sexual outsider—the man has always cocked an eyebrow at anything so mundane as "coming out." As Simpson argues, desire and refusal are Morrissey's two-decade-long theses, and to resolve those issues, boxed and neat, might fracture his public's fascinated gaze and desire to know more about him.

In any case, it has always been Moz's music that has provided the clearest window into what the man is thinking. On the first track of his new album, *You Are the Quarry*, a song called "America Is Not the World," he promptly sets the record straight about one lifestyle change that has particularly puzzled fans: his move from gloomy England to sunny Los Angeles.

One listen to lyrics like "America, your head's too big, because America, your belly's too big...the land of the free, they said, and of opportunity in a just and a truthful way / But where the president is never black or female or gay / And until that day you've got nothing to say to me to help me believe in America"—all of which is followed with an "I love you" coda—and it's clear that however much his fans may miss the chiming guitars of former Smiths collaborator Johnny Marr, their real hero's poison pen is still plugged in.

The usual Morrissey concerns hold sway here, growing and aging with him but never sounding redundant. After all, just because you're in your 40s doesn't mean you can't still hate organized religion ("I Have Forgiven Jesus"), indulge in neurotic romances ("I Like You"), or detest the world's population of crashing bores ("The World Is Full of Crashing Bores"). Middle age has brought no contentment to the man still grappling with "the squalor of the mind" ("You Know I Couldn't Last"). And his fans wouldn't want it any other way. ■

White writes about film for *E!* Online.

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Gay men and the federal government seem to be locked in an unacknowledged conspiracy to increase HIV infection rates. Gay men are doing their part by advertising their eagerness to "party and play," as hundreds do every day on men-for-men sex sites. PNP, as it's most commonly abbreviated, means

doing crystal meth and fucking your brains out, the combination most likely to lead to unprotected anal intercourse, the single most dangerous sexual activity a gay man can engage in. Openly gay reporter Andrew Jacobs of *The New York Times* had the best recent account of this activity, which featured a series of stunning interviews with tweaked-out patrons of a west-side baths in Manhattan, who seemed positively baffled when asked if they were remembering to practice safer sex.

Equally horrifying is the number of gay men who aren't even sophisticated enough to distinguish between the dangers of oral sex and anal intercourse. Yes, it's true that it's possible you can catch HIV through oral sex (and of course it may be more dangerous if you let your partner ejaculate in your mouth). But it is also true that the chances of getting infected through unprotected anal intercourse are many times greater. "There is plenty of science to inform people that oral sex is much less risky," said Steven Tierney, the director of HIV prevention for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, "and the risk of getting infected with HIV is much higher with unprotected anal sex."

The fact that there are still so many gay men who don't know that

incredibly basic fact is a tribute to the woefully inadequate efforts of the federal government to educate children about the relative risks of different types of sexual behavior. It was



18 years ago that Ronald Reagan's surgeon general, C. Everett Koop, declared, "This silence must end. We can no longer afford to sidestep frank, open discussions about sexual practices—homosexual and heterosexual." He added that such education must begin at "the lowest grade possible" and be "reinforced by parents at home." But of course no such thing has ever happened—and even

my most liberal friends are often shocked when I ask them if they have shared this essential knowledge with their 14-year-old sons.

No recent administration has a record to be proud of on this subject, but the present one is worse than all the others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has just announced its new grants for HIV prevention programs—and two thirds of those prevention programs that received direct funding from the CDC last year will get no funding from its latest HIV-prevention initiative.

"We are deeply concerned that the CDC's actions have the effect of dismantling HIV prevention among HIV-negative people in high-risk populations, both locally and nationally," said Jason Riggs, a spokesperson for Stop AIDS Project, the largest HIV prevention group in San Francisco aimed at gay and bisexual men, and one of the many victims of the new CDC cuts.

At the same time the Bush administration is proposing \$270 million for abstinence-only sex education. The effectiveness of that approach was revealed last March in a new National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. According to that report, teens who pledge abstinence until marriage have the same infection rates of STDs as those who don't pledge. The difference is that abstinence pledgers are much less likely to use condoms. Among the study's findings: 59% of males who did not pledge abstinence used a condom during sex, while only 40% of male pledgers used one. But as long as the Administration is pleasing its born-again supporters, it doesn't care if its policies are actually protecting anyone's health. ■

Tweaked-out patrons of a west-side baths in Manhattan seemed positively baffled when asked if they were practicing safer sex.



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